

**Cherry Pie plans foundation for juvenile justice**

**Marinduque: Butterfly capital of the Philippines**



**Strange goes wire-to-wire; Pagunsan 6th**

**30-foot Marian statue rises in Quezon City**



## 5-year-old zarzuela revived in Pampanga

By Tonette Orejas  
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—AS A KATIPUNERO, MARIANO Proceso Pabalan Byron did not only take up arms against Spain, he rebelled against tradition by writing a zarzuela in Kapampangan, the language of the common folk.

Pabalan Byron's zarzuelas, which were popular 105-YEAR-OLD/A7

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph



Monday, May 29, 2006

★★

6 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 170 P11

website: www.inq7.net

## No, they didn't name their baby Brangelina

LOS ANGELES—THE Jolie-Pitt baby has arrived—and no, they didn't name her Brangelina. Thousands of kilometers from Hollywood but still within easy reach of celebrity hype, Angelina Jolie gave birth to Brad



NO, THEY/A6

# Phivolcs: RP must prepare for big one

**'We must accept likelihood of strong quakes'**

By Jerry E. Esplanada

PHILIPPINE EXPERTS GRAPPLING with the mysteries of earthquakes yesterday said the devastating tremor that struck Indonesia was not a cause for alarm and that the key to preventing disasters earthquakes bring was to anticipate and prepare for them.

Renato Solidum Jr., director of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), told the INQUIRER that what happened in Indonesia's central Java and nearby Pacific islands also hit by quakes yesterday did not mean similar occurrences would follow in the Philippines.

"It's not a cause for alarm. Different countries have different earthquake generators in their respective boundaries. Those generators move continuously like our generators," he said in an interview.

That the Philippines lies in the Pacific "Ring of Fire"—a region prone to volcanic eruptions and quakes—should also not cause sleepless nights.

"Yes, it is something to worry about, not with a sense of panic but concern, so that we can prepare for a big earthquake in advance," the Phivolcs chief said.

"We need to have a culture of not only the knowledge of what might happen, but also the culture of preparedness."

Not taking any chances, President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered all disaster monitoring and management agencies "to team up with the private sector in updating and gearing up our contingency plans for any untoward threats or events."

"We must act to help others, and be prepared on our own, in times of need," she said.

Solidum said "the key" to effective disaster prevention was planning, "and the only way

PHIVOLCS/A12



VILLAGERS carry the remains of an earthquake victim during a mass burial in Bantul, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. At least 4,300 people were killed and thousands injured when an earthquake rocked the densely populated island of Java on Saturday.

## Her last words were 'Daddy, Daddy'

BANTUL, INDONESIA—HIS daughter was still breathing when Poniran dug her out of the ruins of his house. But the 5-year-old died in his arms as he waited for treatment at a hospital overflowing with the injured.

"Her last words were 'Daddy, Daddy,'" Poniran said as he took a break from searching in the ruins of his quake-devastated house for salvageable items. "I have to start my life from zero again."

Thousands of exhausted and grieving survivors yesterday dug through their crumpled homes, searching for clothes, food and valuables after a powerful earthquake killed more than 4,300 people in central Indonesia.

The magnitude-6.3 quake struck early Saturday and injured thousands more in the heart of the densely populated island of Java. The country's worst disaster since the 2004 tsunami also stoked fears that a nearby rumbling volcano could erupt and cause further damage to the world-famous 9th century Prambanan temple.

The disaster zone stretched across hundreds of square kilometers of mostly farming communities in Yogyakarta province. The worst devastation was in the town of Bantul, where more than 2,400 people were killed and 80 percent of the homes were flattened.

HER LAST/A22



## Strong earthquakes rock South Asia-Pacific

Sunday, May 28  
New Britain Island,  
Papua New Guinea  
6.2

PACIFIC OCEAN

Sunday, May 28  
Nuku'alofa, Tonga  
6.7

## Valley Fault System



## Killings show military influence in GMA admin rising

By Amando Doronila

THE CURRENT WAVE OF KILLINGS OF leftist activists and journalists follows a pattern that makes it different from and more sinister in its political implications than previous crime waves of the past 50 years.

It reveals an impotent administration

that is not only hostage to invisible death squads but more so one that has lost control over the most important function of government—to ensure the life and security of its citizens, regardless of their political color.

There are ominous signs that the wave of killings suggests that right-

wing extremists have captured government security policy.

An examination of the past pattern of killings demolishes the claim of police authorities that the murders of no less than 300 activists since 2001 and more than 70 journalists since 1986 cannot be stopped because the crime wave fol-

lows the "cycles of ups and downs" now on the "upswing."

This explanation attempts to exculpate the Philippine National Police, military authorities and the Arroyo administration from the responsibility of protecting the lives of citizens from death squads and to counter public suspicions that

KILLINGS/A6

## 65 Pinoys bring home tales of terror from East Timor

By Nikko Dizon

GUNFIRE. BUILDINGS IN FLAMES. Gangs roaming around with machetes and bows and arrows. And, finally, uncertainty.

These were what drove 65 Filipinos out of East Timor and prompted them to fly back home to the Philippines yesterday,

some of them in tears.

"It was so scary. They themselves were killing each other. Some of them even had machetes and bows and arrows," Virgilio Maniago, 50, said in Filipino as he recounted to the INQUIRER his nightmare in the world's youngest nation.

65 PINOYS/A13



RIVERA:  
Environmental  
reporting



DAROY:  
Editorial  
cartooning

## PDI reporter, cartoonist get Asian publishers' awards

HONG KONG—FOR HER REPORTING on the Rapu-Rapu mine's waste spill and for his drawings reflecting significant Asian events, INQUIRER reporter Blanche S. Rivera and editorial cartoonist Gilbert Daroy won honorable mention honors at the gala dinner for the 2006 Sopu (Society of Pub-

lishers in Asia) Awards For Editorial Excellence.

There were only two winners for each award category: The winner of the prize and the honorable mention.

Rivera was cited for environmental reporting and Daroy for editorial cartooning.

PDI REPORTER/A8





## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas including Palawan and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PHVSRESEARCH/05/29/06

SOURCE: PAGASA

E-mail: pr\_news@inquirer.com.ph

## Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Manila	Mostly Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Macoto	Cloudy with Rain
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Marikina	Cloudy with Rain
Yuguegar	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rain
Lucena	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rain
Clark	Partly Cloudy	San. Isidro	Cloudy with Rain
Tuguegar	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rain
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rain
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Butuan	Cloudy with Rain

## Abduction of Erap 5 imperils terror law

By TJ Burgonio

THE FATE OF THE CONTROVERSIAL antiterror bill now hangs in the balance in the Senate after some senators expressed alarm over the "Gestapo-like" abduction of five supporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Some senators are now having "serious thoughts" about its early passage and are taking a long and hard look at the bill, particularly its provisions giving law enforcement leeway to wiretap, arrest and detain individuals on suspicion of terrorism.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III first raised objections to its early approval while the senators were grilling top military officials about the abduction of five leaders of the pro-Estrada Union of the Masses for Democracy and Justice during last week's budget plenary debates.

"I was about to support its passage into law. [The incident] now gives me serious thoughts," Osmeña said.

As shown by the case of the five Erap supporters, he said the possibility of government agents stretching the limits of the bill to "persecute innocent civilians" was not far-fetched.

"I have always objected to the broader definition [of terrorism] because of the proclivity of our law enforcement agencies, be it the PNP, NBI or AFP, to stretch the definition," he said.

"If we give them an inch, they may take a mile in order that they may use the law to persecute innocent civilians."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the "Gestapo-like" arrest, detention and torture of the five had sparked fears human rights violations would escalate once the Anti-Terrorism Act was implemented.

"This will definitely affect the passage of the measure. We don't have an antiterrorism law yet but some elements of Isafp are already behaving as if the country is under a fascist rule," he said, referring to the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile sponsored the bill that seeks to define the crime of terrorism by enumerating its elements on Tuesday, paving the way for debates on the floor.

On the same day, the worried families of Ruben Dionisio, Virgilio Eustaquio, Dennis Ibuna, Jim Lucio Cabauatan and PO3 Jose Justo Curameng sought the senators' help in tracing their whereabouts.

The five were picked up Monday by military and police agents who barged into Eustaquio's home in Quezon City on suspicion they were planning to assassinate members of the Cabinet. They were dragged into a waiting vehicle, blindfolded and taken to different safe houses.

# DOH warns against onset of rainy season diseases

By Christian V. Esguerra

## DENGUE, DIARRHEA AND LEPTOSPIROSIS.

With summer about to end, the public should watch out for these diseases, along with acute respiratory infections like the flu and pneumonia. These ailments normally strike during the rainy season, the Department of Health has warned.

The country just came from a bad dengue season which downed at least 21,817 people last year. The number exceeded the 20,000 cases initially projected by health officials.

From January to the first week of April this year, the DOH reported 3,194 dengue cases, representing 49 percent of the total number of cases recorded during the same period last year.

### Acute infectious ailment

"Dengue is an acute infectious disease brought about by the bite of the Aedes mosquito that breeds in clean and stagnant water found in flower vases, cans, old rubber tires, used bottles, among other containers," the DOH said in an advisory.

"Signs and symptoms of dengue include the sudden onset of high fever for 2 to 7 days, joint and muscle pains, pain behind the eyes, weakness, and red and tiny spots in the skin that become rashes."

### 3-yr dengue cycle

Dengue attacks more viciously during a three-year cycle, Dr. Eric Tayag, head of the DOH National Epidemiology Center said in an earlier interview. Last year was ripe for an attack—with dengue killing at least 280 people.

Still, the 2005 experience was nowhere near the number of patients in 1998 when around 40,000 people fell sick.

Another serious disease is leptospirosis, caused by bacteria entering the skin through open wounds. It's usually contracted from vegetation, moist soil or floodwaters contaminated with rat urine.

"Signs and symptoms include fever, muscle pain and headaches. When severe, leptospirosis may affect the liver, kidneys or the brain," according to the DOH.

### Big leap

From January to the first week of April this year, the disease infected 111 people. It's a big leap from the 49 cases reported in 2005.

Then there's diarrhea. It becomes serious when a person discharges "watery stools at least three times a day," according to the DOH.

"This is often accompanied by

vomiting, electrolyte imbalance and dehydration, which can be fatal if not treated early," it said in the advisory.

### Dehydration symptoms

"Signs and symptoms of dehydration are sunken eyeballs and fontanel in children, dry lips, excessive thirst and poor skin turgor. (When pinched, skin with normal turgor snaps back to position. Skin with decreased turgor remains elevated—a sure sign of dehydration). Diarrhea is a food-borne disease that can be acquired through ingestion of food and water contaminated with fecal material.

"To prevent diarrhea, the DOH recommends ensuring a safe water supply, the sanitary disposal of human waste and the practice of personal hygiene."

## UN: Humans more likely spreaders of avian influenza

THE UNITED NATION'S FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO) said it was unreasonable to blame wild birds as the source of H5N1 or bird flu in the absence of rigorous research into their role in the ecology and dynamics of the virus.

"Human activities not birds are more likely to spread the virus," the FAO said in a statement posted last week on its web site at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org).

Avian or bird flu is a very contagious disease caused by viruses that normally infect only birds. But the virus has since mutated and it is now causing infections and even deaths in poultry and humans.

The FAO said it had been calling for more research on the deadly virus as early as 2004, "but insufficient resources had been allocated to be able to study the question properly."

Joseph Domenech, FAO's chief veterinary officer, explained that with the rapid spread of the disease, FAO now needed \$308 million (\$16.3 billion) for its contribution to the global program for the progressive control of avian influenza over the next three years—more than twice the sum required a few months ago.

"To date, FAO has only received \$71 million (\$3.7 billion)," he said.

Domenech claimed that the current avian flu crisis was "likely to be a continuing emergency that will last several years."

The FAO expressed serious concern that international interest had been focused almost exclusively on the possibility of avian flu hitting human populations to the neglect of its potentially devastating impact on poultry and other animals.

"This fails to recognize that the best way to protect people is to control and try to eradicate the disease in animals," Domenech said.

The FAO admitted that avian influenza was a complex issue in which wild birds had most often been identified as the culprits.

"It is indeed likely that they can introduce the disease to unaffected areas from countries in which the disease has already been identified—but the disease is spread through the human activities of poultry production, improper hygiene and uncontrolled commercialization," the UN agency said. *Delfin Mal-lari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

## Oil firms hike prices anew

CITING HIGHER WORLD OIL PRICES, oil firms raised gasoline and kerosene prices by 50 centavos per liter following similar adjustments by the country's two oil refiners.

Chevron Philippines Corp. increased prices at 6 a.m. yesterday, while Total (Philippines) Corp. increased prices at 12:01 a.m. today.

The two oil firms also adjusted liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) prices by 56 centavos per kilogram, inclusive of the 12-percent value-added tax.

New oil player Seaoil Petroleum Corp. also raised gasoline and kerosene prices at 12:01 a.m. today. UniOil Petroleum Philippines Inc. followed suit at 6 a.m.

Like refiners Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., the four oil firms retained the price of diesel, in an effort to help the public transport sector.

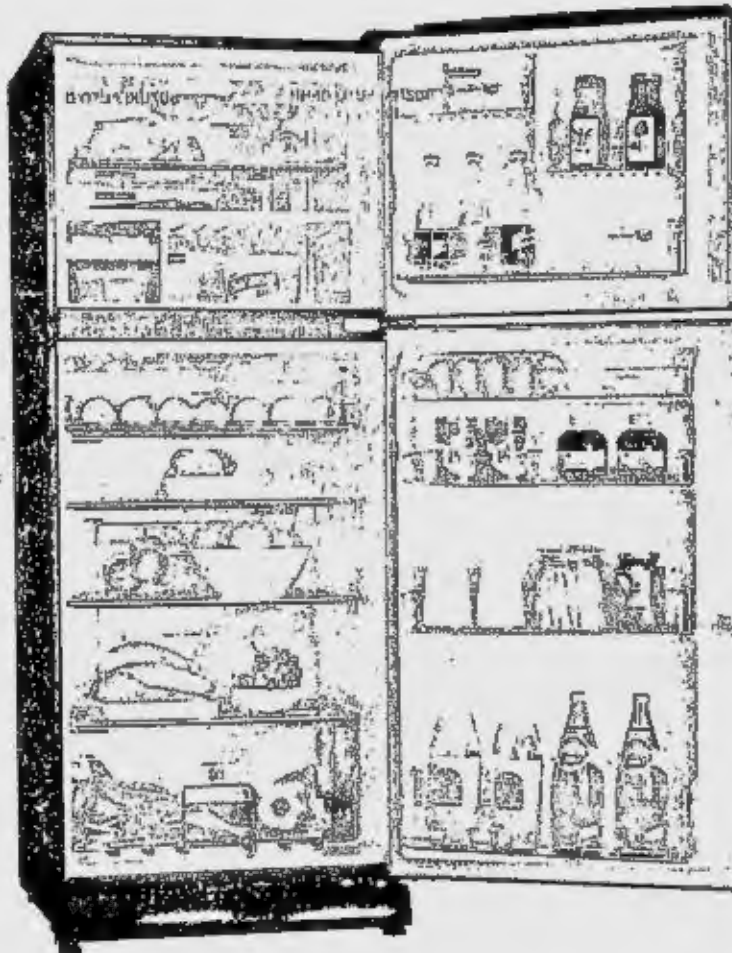
Data from the Department of Energy showed that the regional benchmark Dubai crude skyrocketed to \$65.55 a barrel as of May 18 from last month's \$64.14 a barrel.

Abigail Ho

[www.whirlpool.com.ph](http://www.whirlpool.com.ph)

1 TO 764

## THE CONQUEST OF SPACE

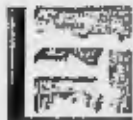


Your prayers have finally been answered. Say goodbye to your storage woes with WHIRLPOOL CONQUEST. It's luxuriously big enough to accommodate big food whether in quantity or size. It even has a fast cooling feature that guarantees round the clock freshness.

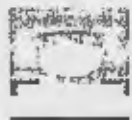
Now you don't have to ask for miracles. The CONQUEST definitely does the job.



**BIG FREEZER SHILL**  
Bigger freezer space gives you more storage area and saves you trips to the supermarket.



**TRAY ICE TRAY**  
Convenient and easy to use twist ice trays give you ice in an instant.



**INDEPENDENT FREEZER LAMP**  
Enjoy separate freezer and refrigerator lamps for better illumination. Available only in the new Conquest refrigerator.



Stainless Steel



Stainless Look

Available in the following sizes:  
WSN11 - 10.5 cu.ft.  
WSN12 - 12 cu.ft.  
WSN15 - 15 cu.ft.

Showrooms

Alabang 6/F Alabang Home Depot, Lot 103-117 Alabang Zapote Road cor. Filinvest Avenue, Westgate Alabang, Muntinlup City, 775-1273 • Cebu 5/F Sogo Home and Office Center, Ayala Avenue, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City, (032) 232-1801 • Makati 7/F Anson Emporium, Pasay Road, Makati City 841-4066 • Davao 7/F Antimall Center, Davao House Depot, Julia Vargas Avenue, Davao Center, 635-0010 • Quezon City 222 D.Taxian St. cor. L. Castillo St., Quezon City, 732-7370 for 101-103



WHIRLPOOL QUALITY EXPRESS SERVICE



SENSING THE DIFFERENCE



# The All-New Suzuki APV DEALS for REAL!

Promo Period is from  
May 18 - 31, 2006.



**Only  
P 99,000 DP**  
Plus more great value  
packages.

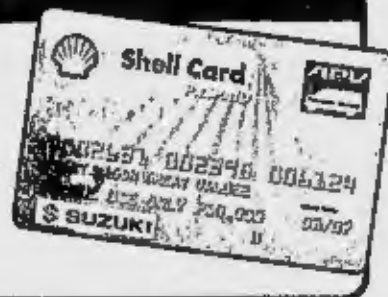
## APV GLX PACKAGES

### Choose your terms

1. **Cash Payment**
  - ☐ Free SHELL gas card worth P10,000.
  - ☐ Free one-year comprehensive insurance coverage.
2. **Low Interest Terms**
  - ☐ Free SHELL gas card worth P10,000.
  - ☐ Low Interest rate
3. **Low Down Payment Terms**
  - ☐ Down payment of only P99,000
  - ☐ Plus affordable monthly installments

## APV GL PACKAGE

Get a Free SHELL  
gas card worth P5,000  
for every purchase of  
APV GL MT.



Gas cards are valid for one (1) year from date issued.

Come see us!



SRP	* Down Payment	12	18	24	36	48	60	72
765,000	99,000	56,193	38,506	29,861	21,251	17,024	14,834	13,481

\* Only applicable for GLX AT.



Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2857 Series of 2006

## New Family Wagon



### METRO MANILA

SUZUKI AUTO COMMONWEALTH  
43 Commonwealth Avenue,  
Quezon City  
691-2201 to 19

SUZUKI AUTO EDSA  
EDSA cor. Medison St.,  
Mandaluyong City  
634-3461 to 57

SUZUKI AUTO KALOOKAN  
198 EDSA cor. Tandang Sora St.,  
Kalookan City  
364-9585

SUZUKI AUTO MAKATI  
G/F Smith Bell Bldg., 2204  
Don Chino Rocas Ave. Ext.,  
Makati City  
616-4087 / 610-1738 / 610-1737

SUZUKI AUTO QUEZON AVE.  
1142 Quezon Avenue,  
Quezon City  
874-3511 / 411-27-20

SUZUKI AUTO SHAW  
411 Shaw Boulevard,  
Mandaluyong City  
718-1634 to 35

### PROVINCIAL

SUZUKI AUTO BAGUIO  
Manor Bldg., Araneta St.,  
Singang Baguio City  
(0934) 436-0288

SUZUKI AUTO CAGAYAN  
Maharlika Highway,  
Cagayan City  
(0944) 463-5248 / 483-0088

SUZUKI AUTO CAGAYAN DE ORO  
Mindanao Motor Compound,  
Correia Ave., Cagayan de Oro City  
(088) 227-28387

SUZUKI AUTO CEBU  
CDO Foodpore Bldg.,  
A. S. Fortuna St., Banilad,  
Mandau City  
(032) 345-8890 / (032) 345-0807

SUZUKI AUTO DAVAO  
National Highway, Ambonco,  
Calasiao, Pangasinan  
(075) 517-17-17 / 8888 / 9999

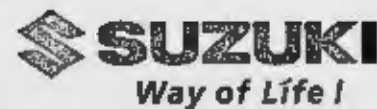
SUZUKI AUTO DAVAO  
Bo. Pampanga, Sasa,  
Davao City  
(082) 233-1148 / 234-0900

SUZUKI AUTO ILOILO  
Tabuk, Suba, Iloilo City  
(033) 320-0943

SUZUKI AUTO LEGASPI  
406 Rizal St., Cabangas,  
Legaspi City  
(054) 472-3677 to 79 / 472-3659

SUZUKI AUTO PAMPANGA  
Olongapo-Gepon Road,  
City of San Fernando, Pampanga  
(045) 880-5971 / (045) 881-3573

SUZUKI AUTO ZAMBOANGA  
Veterans Ave. cor. Tomas Claudio St.,  
Zamboanga City  
(092) 291-1492 / 981-1126



www.suzuki.com.ph



CALL THE INQUIRER SUBSCRIPTION HOTLINE  
**892-6000**

### FluorOxygen+C = Whiter Skin

Experience a complete turn-around from dark, dull complexion to radiant, whiter skin. Facial Care's latest whitening breakthrough - FluorOxygen+C has a powerful formulation that permeates deeper in the skin to suppress active melanin production, reverse darkness and stimulate fairer skin rebirth. It produces dramatic skin lightening and encourages faster turnover of old skin to effectively remove discolorations, pigmentations and brown spots. Promising results include double takes and flattering compliments on your whiter, clearer, peachier skin that can turn eyes green with envy.

Call Facial Care now for FluorOxygen+C.

**FLUOROXYGEN+C**  
Stand Out With Radiant, Whiter Skin

**facial care**  
CENTRE

CALL 892-SKIN (7546)

Where Beautiful Skin Happens

MAKATI ORTIGAS TOMAS MORATO BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA (961-3404) CEBU (233-7631)



# SPLITS by CARRIER

It's about time.

## It's all about accessorizing your home.

Flat is beautiful. Flat is the ultimate design in air conditioning systems.

A Flat Panel means there are no ridges in the grill that can gather dust or grime. A Flat Panel blends in with the elegant interior design and ambience of your home or place of business.

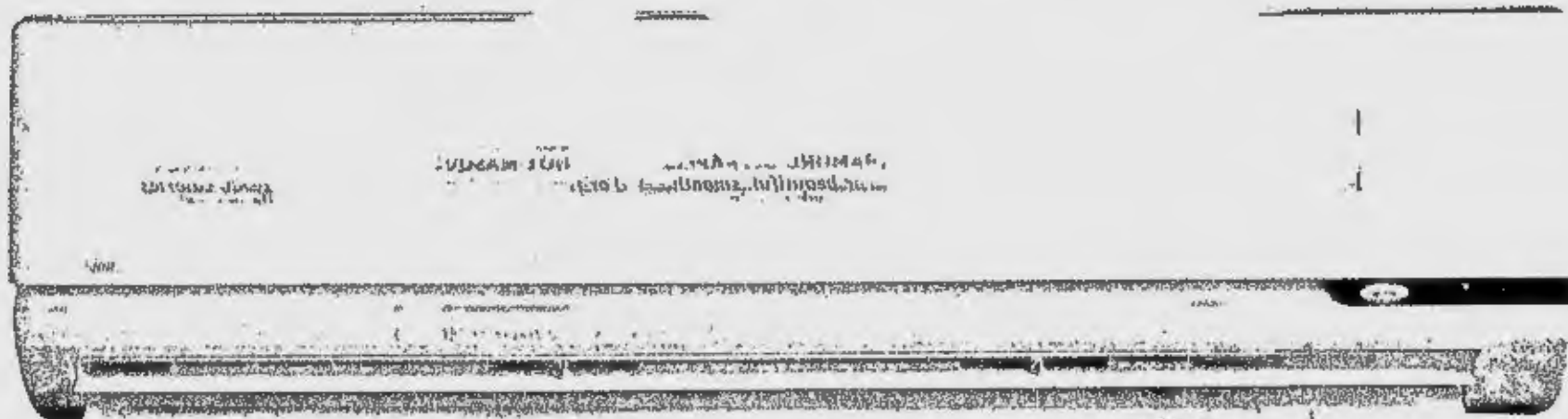
## It's all about intelligent cooling.

The Carrier Xpression is not just form but substance too. Here is where engineering is at its best.

It has a 7mm Super-Conductive Lanced Sine Wave Fin Surface that speeds up the rate that heat is taken out of any room. Moisture that slows down the ability to absorb additional heat slides right off the coils of the Xpression's Hydrophilic Evaporator. The Turbo Cool and Powerful Mode features enable the unit to go full blast, cooling a room in less than 60 seconds.

## xpression Your ultimate split.

Face it, there's nothing like knowing you own the best. Whether it is aesthetics or the latest in technology. Breathing clean air or really silent cooling. What may be regarded as the best air-conditioning system is the best reward you can give yourself.



## It's all about breathing clean.

Not just a lot of cool air, but a lot of clean, cool air. The Carrier Xpression has 5 exclusive features designed to do just that. A Washable Anti-Mold Filter screens out harmful mold, dust and pollen. A Photo-Catalytic Filter removes harmful gases and chemicals in the air. A Charcoal Filter neutralizes cooking odor and cigarette smoke. An Electrostatic Dust Collector catches airborne allergens like dust mites, pollen and dog dander. And an Anti-Bacterial Blower Fan and Drain Pan inhibit the growth of bacteria and fungi.

## It's all about rewarding yourself.

The Carrier Xpression is in itself the ultimate assurance of quality in air conditioners. And no one deserves this more than yourself. So go ahead. Indulge yourself. The Carrier Xpression is truly your own just reward.



Turn to the Experts.™



# De Venecia in Japan to press for resumption of loans

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA flew to Japan on Wednesday on a mission for President Macapagal-Arroyo: To restore the \$80 million (P4.2 billion) in Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the country.

The Japanese grants and yen-package loans have been frozen

since Ms Arroyo assumed office in 2001.

Before De Venecia left for Tokyo, he told reporters the ODA grants "could be restored," and it was the President herself who was taking "decisive steps" to restore them.

He said the yen-denominated loans could be utilized for urgent

infrastructure and to fund the country's antipoverty programs and create thousands of jobs.

De Venecia also said Ms Arroyo gave instructions for the payment of P70 million to Japanese construction companies in order to complete the refund of value-added taxes collected from VAT-

exempt companies.

The \$600-\$800 million in loans from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) represent a major source of capital funds for the Philippines with 30 to 40 years repayment at less than 1 percent per annum.

The Speaker called Japan the

Philippines' "biggest provider" of ODA and a major source of foreign direct investment.

His official trip to Japan, which Philippine Ambassador Domingo L. Siazon Jr. arranged, came on the heels of the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between the Philip-

pines and Japan.

Yesterday, De Venecia, accompanied by his wife Gina and a delegation from the House, opened a five-day official visit which will be capped by a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and an audience with the Japanese Emperor. *Michael Lim Ubac*

## Pork barrel tool against impeachment, claims solon

WITH OVER TWO MONTHS TO GO BEFORE a second impeachment bid could be filed by the opposition, Malacañang is once again relying on the weapon under its control to rein in lawmakers and ensure the defeat of the next attempt to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo—the pork barrel.

Opposition Rep. Rodolfo Plaza of the lone district of Agusan del Sur said Malacañang had deliberately blocked the release of the pork barrel funds of lawmakers for this year ahead of the coming impeachment attempt in July.

In an interview yesterday, Plaza said Malacañang had been withholding the first and second tranches of the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) since January.

The PDAF, popularly known as pork barrel, is given in the form of Special Allotment Release Orders (SARO) and Notice of Cash Allocations (NCA).

But this time what is being withheld is not the pork barrel of members of the minority, according to Plaza.

"Malacañang is really pulling a fast one on members of the majority," Plaza said, explaining that this "clever tactic" would ensure the allegiance of the majority coalition in the lower chamber.

"Malacañang will withdraw the SARO when impeachment is inevitable, so that the congressmen can't ask for more. If it releases the SAROs this early, the congressmen will ask for additional pork barrel," he said.

House majority members, whose SAROs and NCAs were usually the first to be released, have been grumbling over the delay in the PDAF releases since March.

"But all they received were promises," said Plaza.

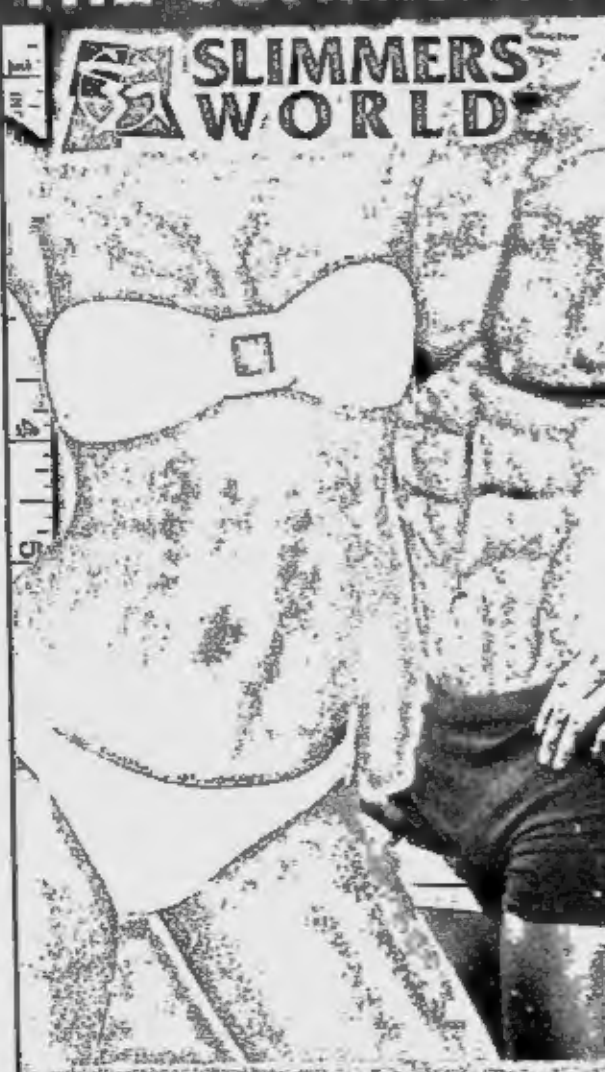
Under the reduced PDAF, each of the 236 congressmen will receive P40 million in yearly allocations usually given in four tranches, or one at every end of the quarter.

Although the 2006 budget has yet to be passed by the Senate and signed into law by the President, lawmakers could already draw on their congressional allocations because the 2005 budget was reenacted in January.

The proposed 2006 budget reinstates the original amount of P70 million for each congressman, but Deputy Minority Leader Rolan Suplico of Iloilo said the amount could go up to P75 million.

Last week, Suplico claimed that House majority members had been badgering the opposition to file the impeachment complaint as leverage against Malacañang. *Michael Lim Ubac*

## THE ULTIMATE CORE FAT BURNING PROGRAMME.



**SHE SAID:** What is CORE POWER?  
**HE SAID:** CORE POWER Training plus BODY METRICS is the ultimate in FITNESS, FAT & CELLULITE LOSS. It's the way that Jonabel Gavieta lost 34.5 lbs to win the Female Great Body contest and Art Guerrero lost 35 lbs to win the Male Great Body contest.

GREAT SAVINGS!!!

**P45**  
PER DAY  
NO MONTHLY DUES!!!  
CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%.

5 FREE PERSONAL TRAINING SLOTS\*



FREE DANCE AEROBICS\*

FLATTEN Your TUMMY, Stay LEAN Forever!  
SAVINGS APPLY TO FULL PROGRAMMES.

## SLIMMERS WORLD FACE, SKIN & BODY

OTHER TREATMENTS:

MESOTHERAPY • AQUAMID  
SKIN WHITENING • PURAGEN  
LASER ACNE TREATMENT  
WART REMOVAL • FACIAL



GREAT SAVINGS!!!  
BUY 15 TREATMENTS  
GET 5 FREE!  
OUTSKIN FACET  
BODY THERAPY  
BODY THERAPY

FITNESS & SKIN HOTLINE 536-3333 MOBILE 091-SLIMMERS (75466377)

**CALL US**

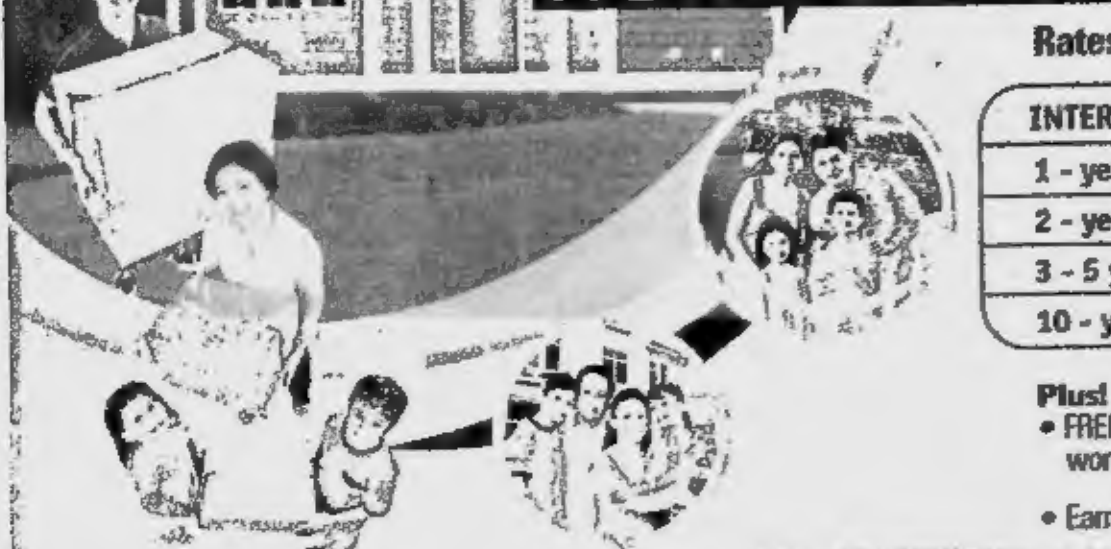
www.slimmersworld.com.ph  
inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

ALABANG Gemma/Wendy 809-0396  
BINONDO Thelma/Jannah 242-1312  
CALOOCAN Rode/Olive 365-7653  
CEBU Juna/Anne 231-3254  
GREENHILLS Eanna 726-6505  
LEGASPI WILL Lan/Jonah 893-8935  
MALATE Daisy/Mhaye 536-0619

MEGAMALL Gina/Ruby 631-3869  
PASAY RD Cher/Maan/Vai 887-1335  
Pasay Rd cellphone 09178515920  
PASIG Dino/Jiggs 681-5333  
SM NORTH Mitch 929-5429  
SUBIC Beth/Precy 252-6514  
TRAFALGAR Emily 814-0138

SKIN CENTER HOTLINES: ALABANG 7750587/09183912510 BINONDO 2420728/09178224399 CALOOCAN 3657653 GREENHILLS 7261526/09194986196  
MALATE 5259891/09213173415 MEGAMALL 6377543/09162479753 PASAY RD. 8873530/09156893088 PASIG 6473816/09275341314

## BANCO DE ORO SUPER Value HOME LOAN



Helping more and more families move into their dream homes.

With fast processing and competitive rates, you too can move in soon!

Rates as low as any other bank!

INTEREST RATE	Per Annum
1 - year fixed	10.00%
2 - year fixed	11.00%
3 - 5 year fixed	11.25%
10 - year fixed	11.50%

Plus!  
• FREE Housewarming Gift Certificates worth up to P15,000\* from Home  
• Earn BDO Rewards Points

Over P2 million in cash & prizes!  
2 draw! Lots of winners!  
**SUPER LOANS, SUPER PRIZES!**

Book a SuperValue Home Loan now and get a chance to be one of the 60 lucky winners!

\*Prize period: March 1 to December 31, 2006. For DTI-NCR Permit No. 4000 Series of 2006.

Call 631-8000

or 1-800-10-6318000 (Domestic Toll Free)  
or visit any of our BDO or BDO On-site branches.

**BDO Home Loan**  
www.bancomoro.com.ph



## Cholesterol Lowering C-Lium® Fibre Prevents Coronary Heart Disease

AVAILABLE AT MERCURY DRUG AND ALL LEADING DRUG STORES TXT 4 INFO: 09167410346





## No, they didn't name their baby Brangelina

From page A1

Pitt's daughter on Saturday in Africa, Pitt's publicist announced.

"The night of May 27, 2006 in Namibia, Africa, Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt welcomed their daughter Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt. No further information is being given," publicist Cindy Guagenti said in a statement.

No photographs were being released, Guagenti added.

The baby's arrival had been the subject of intense press speculation in recent months, prompting the superstar couple to decamp to Africa for privacy. It escalated on Tuesday when an e-mail Pitt sent to the Cannes Film Festival said he was



JOLIE FILE PHOTO

unable to attend because of the baby's "imminent arrival."

The birth came a little more than a month after another blockbuster delivery—a girl born to Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes.

### Heavy security

Jolie and Pitt had powerful help protecting their privacy from the government of Namibia, which refused to grant entry to reporters seeking to cover the birth without the actors' written permission.

The government arrested photographers, confiscated film, ringed the couple's hotel with heavy security and set up large green barriers on

the beach to shield the family.

Jolie and Pitt were linked romantically shortly after appearing together in the 2005 movie "Mr. and Mrs. Smith."

Jolie, 30, is a frequent visitor to Africa and serves as goodwill ambassador for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. She has two adopted children—toddler Zahara, from Ethiopia, and 4-year-old Maddox, from Cambodia.

Both children had their surnames legally changed to Jolie-Pitt after Pitt announced his intentions to coadopt the two.

Pitt and actress Jennifer Aniston divorced last fall.

Jolie, who won an Oscar for her supporting role in 1999's "Girl, Interrupted," is divorced from Billy Bob Thornton and Jonny Lee Miller.

AP

## Killings show ...

From page A1

these three state institutions are in a conspiracy to create a new communist witch-hunt in the first decade of the 21st century to ensure the short-term survival of an embattled regime.

During the 1950s and 1970s, the violence toll involving human rights violations sprang from the anticommunist insurgency crackdown on the Hukblahap and New People's Army guerrillas and cadres in the peasantry and the urban-based trade unions.

The killings then could directly be traced to battles between guerrilla and government troops and the extrajudicial violence by government-sponsored death squads and government-armed vigilantes.

There was no mistake in determining responsibility for that wave of human rights violations. There were no gray areas.

### White terror

Fifty years onward, past the era of military juntas in Latin American and the low-intensity

anti-Left insurgency campaigns in Nicaragua, Chile and Argentina, an ostensibly civilian government is throwing back Philippine democracy to the benighted era of the white terror of an anticommunist witch-hunt.

The Arroyo administration is trying to revive the climate of unsolved purges and disappearances, is speaking the political rhetoric of that anachronistic era, and is shutting this country back to a time warp.

In denouncing the wave of killings and kidnappings of members of the above-ground Left, the Bayan Muna party-list group, which has borne the brunt of the death squad assassinations, Amnesty International (AI) and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) took pains not to accuse the administration directly of instigating the killings of the leftist activists and of the journalists.

However, AI and the CHR emphasized two points—the unchecked killings and the unabated high spiral of the death toll in just five years unmistakably constitute human rights violations, and that while there is no direct evidence of government sponsorship of the death squads, there is a clear "pattern of impunity."

### Colors of killers

The CHR held the government accountable and emphatically urged it to stop the killings, regardless of "what colors the killers are." It said: "In human rights terms, the government is still responsible even if persons in authority are not behind the killings."

AI has pointed out that a "climate of impunity" shielding the perpetrators of such killings deepened as ineffective investigations failed to lead to the prosecution of those responsible."

It noted "increased killings in particular provinces were reportedly linked to the public labeling of leftist groups as NPA front organizations by local AFP commanders."

AI said that the administration might be "encouraging more extrajudicial killings" with the recent promotion of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan as Army commander in Central Luzon. The CHR has received complaints of human rights violations from area where Palparan has been posted, including Samar and Mindoro.

Palparan recently called for the return of Republic Act No. 1700, the Anti-Subversion Law, which outlawed the Communist Party of the Philippines. He said the setup allowed the CPP "to infiltrate the government through the party-list organizations."

"I would be happy the communist parties would be outlawed again ... It's better for them to go back to the hills," he said.

### Gonzales' line, too

Palparan said military spies had infiltrated the NPA and legal communist organizations, and attributed the sharp rise of deaths within the ranks of the legal Left to the alleged internal communist purges.

This line was echoed by Norberto Gonzales, President Macapagal-Arroyo's national security chief, who has claimed that recent "mass graves" were uncovered in Mindanao where victims of the alleged internal communist purges were buried.

Statements and actions such as those of Palparan and Gonzales and the slow progress of the investigations ordered by the President could only have encouraged the perpetrators to believe they are shielded from prosecution. These are signals for the military and police not to go ahead with inquiries.

They have also strengthened suspicions that Ms Arroyo is unwilling to rein in the death squads and to stay the hands of rabidly anticommunist segments of the armed forces because of two reasons.

First, Ms Arroyo needs to consolidate her support in the military to counter attempts by her political enemies to unseat her and quash coup plots by mutinous pockets of the officer corps.

Second, she can use the red herring to weaken the Left as a political force and as a potential ally of seditious military factions, and to find scapegoats to justify invoking extraordinary presidential powers (such as in February's proclamation of national emergency).

Ms Arroyo is playing the communist witch-hunt as one of her last cards to stay in power as she walks closer toward the end of the political tightrope.

The problem is the more she allows the military radicals to dictate security and even political policies, the more she paves the way for the expansion of military influence in her administration and the more it becomes dependent on the military for regime survival.

# Call Center Conference & Expo 2006

CCAP  
Contact Center Association of the Philippines

presents

## The country's OFFICIAL and BIGGEST call center event!

### Sustaining the Industry's Hypergrowth

CONFERENCE • EXHIBIT • JOBFair  
JUNE 20 - 21, 2006 • EDSA SHANGRI-LA

SUPPORTED BY



Sec. ARTHUR YAP  
PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER  
for JOB CREATION

### PARTICIPATE!

- CALL CENTER DIRECTORS
- OPERATIONS MANAGERS
- FINANCIAL OFFICERS
- BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
- HR MANAGERS
- TRAINING OFFICERS
- PROGRAM MANAGERS
- QA MANAGERS
- CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS
- WORKFORCE MANAGERS
- NETWORK MANAGERS

The country's premiere learning event for the contact center industry

THIS IS THE MUST-ATTEND CONFERENCE FOR EXECUTIVES, MANAGERS, AND PROFESSIONALS FROM BOTH OUTSOURCE AND IN-HOUSE CALL CENTERS. LAST YEAR, MORE THAN 600 DELEGATES ATTENDED THE JAM-PACKED OPERATIONS, PEOPLE, AND SOLUTIONS TRACKS. THIS YEAR, WE'RE INTRODUCING A FOURTH TRACK CALLED CAREER DEVELOPMENT, AIMED AT AGENTS AND SUPERVISORS.

Get the One-Day or Two-Day Pass to get access to expert presentations, new research findings, case studies of best practices, and insightful panel discussions. Enjoy the early bird's rate if you register on or before MAY 31, 2006. This is the call center conference you cannot afford to miss!

JOIN US:

CONTACT CENTERS • HARDWARE VENDORS • SOFTWARE COMPANIES • TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIRMS • HEADSET PROVIDERS • CALL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS • REAL ESTATE FIRMS • HR AND TRAINING COMPANIES • OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT PROVIDERS • BANKS AND INSURANCE COMPANIES • HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS • FAST FOOD FIRMS AND CONVENIENCE STORES • CAR MANUFACTURERS

### CONFERENCE TOPICS

#### OPERATIONS TRACK

JUNE 20, 2006 - TUESDAY

- Customer-centric metrics and the new economics of customer relationships
- Providing BPO services beyond call center
- Preparing RFP responses that wins project
- How to develop a solid business case with ROI's that make sense

JUNE 21, 2006 - WEDNESDAY

- The secret of outstanding workforce management
- Taking your company public
- Maintain high levels of service when your budget is decreasing
- Quality management versus quality monitoring

Note: Some topics may change without prior notice

#### PEOPLE TRACK

JUNE 20, 2006 - TUESDAY

- Coaching: The key to improving agents' performance
- Identifying and developing potential leaders
- Effective incentives in both sales and service call centers
- Developing training programs for multiple channel contact centers

JUNE 21, 2006 - WEDNESDAY

- Early turnover blues? Your plan to pump up agent retention in the first 90 days
- Unconventional and effective recruiting strategies
- How your call center culture affects your bottom line
- Combining quality monitoring and e-learning to increase productivity

#### SOLUTIONS TRACK

JUNE 20, 2006 - TUESDAY

- Flat, consolidated, and extended: A new multi-site contact center model
- How to implement a VOIP call center
- Safeguarding your IT Infrastructure
- Choosing the right voice platform

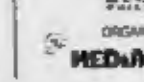
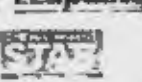
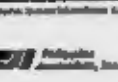
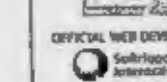
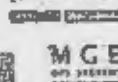
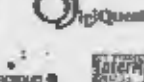
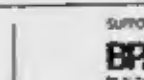
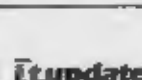
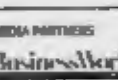
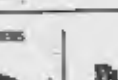
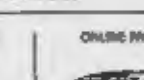
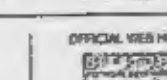
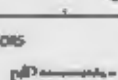
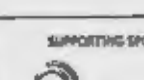
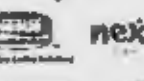
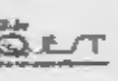
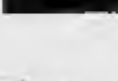
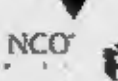
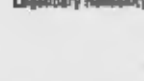
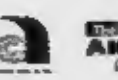
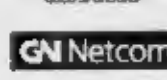
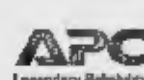
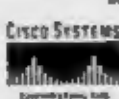
JUNE 21, 2006 - WEDNESDAY

- Building data centers on demand
- Maximizing CRM for your contact center solutions for your business
- Vendor evaluation: Choosing the right solutions for your business needs
- Consolidating your contact center to lower your costs
- Protecting your data and recovering from disaster

### CCAP MEMBERS:

ADVANCED CONTACT SOLUTIONS, INC. • ALORICA • AMBERGRIS • C3 HTMT • CLIENT LOGIC • CONTACT POINT • CONVERGYS • DAKSH • E-PACIFIC GLOBAL • EPERFORMAX • ETELECAR • EXPERICS DIRECT • GLOBALSTRIDE • ICON • ICT GROUP • INFONOX • LOGICALL • PACIFIC HUB • PEOPLE SUPPORT • PILIPINAS TELESERV • QINTERACTION • SITEL • STERLING GLOBAL • SYKES • TOUCHASIA • TRG • VISION X

IN COOPERATION WITH



### Registration Form

STEP 1: Complete mailing and profile information (PLEASE PRINT)

Name: (Last name, First Name, Middle Initial)

Job Title:

Company:

☐ CCAP Member ☐ Non-CCAP Member

Industry:

(e.g., call center, I.T.)

Department:

(e.g., accounting, marketing)

E-mail Address:

Street Address:

Tel. No.:

(Include extension if any)

Fax No.:

STEP 2: Select your preferred conference pass and applicable registration fee

Please check the desired option below. Early-bird registration fees are up to May 31, 2006, after which full registration fees will apply. Group registration of five or more people from the same company registering together can avail additional 10% discount. Registration form must be completed per individual but all registrations must be submitted together and paid in full at the time of registration.

Avail the 20% Early Bird discount on or before May 31, 2006

	NON-CCAP MEMBER		CCAP MEMBER	
	Early Bird Rate	Full/ On site	Early Bird Rate	Full/ On site
Two-day pass	<input type="checkbox"/> P6,400	<input type="checkbox"/> P8,000	<input type="checkbox"/> P4,800	<input type="checkbox"/> P6,400
One-day pass	<input type="checkbox"/> P4,000	<input type="checkbox"/> P5,000	<input type="checkbox"/> P3,000	<input type="checkbox"/> P4,000

STEP 3: Submit your registration and payment

You can submit this registration form to fax no. 886-4407 / 844-8341 or mail to Rm. 17-O, Burgundy Corporate Tower, #252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. Or you can call tel nos. 889-7763 / 844-8341 to have your registration form and payment picked up. To pay the registration fee, you can send a check payable to DL Mediafocus International, Inc. along with your registration form. Or you can deposit your payment to any China Bank Branch. Account name: DL Mediafocus Int'l. Inc., Account # 157-0213290, then fax the deposit slip to fax no. 886-4407 / 844-8341

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact the CCAP Secretariat Office at 17-O Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat St., Makati City, Philippines • Tel. Nos. 889-7763 / 844-8341 Telefax 886-4407 • Email address: dlmediafocus@yahoo.com/ admin@mediafocus.com.ph

### Corrections

IN THE MAY 22 ISSUE, a Metro story on Page A26—"Marikina student wins in Intel science fair"—misstated the school from which Raymond Joseph Amurao graduated. Amurao graduated from Marikina Science High School—not Marikina High School.

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, a front-page article—"Bush honors Fil-Am volunteer"—misstated Virginia Carzon Sturwald's age. According to Sturwald, she is 82—not 81. She also said that the same article misstated where she had met her ex-husband. She met him when they were both graduate students at Indiana University in Bloomington—not in a New York university. According to her, the article also misstated the organization of her boss who helped her get away from her abusive husband. Her boss then was with the American Institutes for Research in Washington, DC—not with the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia.



# 105-year-old zarzuela revived

From page A1

theatrical entertainment at the time, featured characters based on ordinary people. He also developed stories around family themes such as love, domestic quarrels and jealousy.

Pabalan Byron's "Ing Managpi" (The Patcher), first staged on Sept. 13, 1900, at the Teatro Sabina in Bacolor, Pampanga, thus became the first zarzuela in the vernacular in the Philippines.

The significance of this feat was noted by the late literary historian Rosalina Icban-Castro in her 1981 book, "Literature of the Pampangos."

"Ing Managpi" is older than the best known Tagalog zarzuela, "Walang Sugar," by Severino Reyes and the Kapampangan zarzuela, "Alang Dios," by Juan Crisostomo Soto, according to Robby Tantingco, executive director of the Holy Angel University's (HAU) Center for Kapampangan Studies.

Young theater artists at the HAU honored the legacy of Pabalan Byron by restaging the 105-year-old zarzuela on Saturday as part of National Heritage Month.

The zarzuela centered on the domestic quarrel between couple Doña Juana and Don Diego and was interspersed with comic relief from the family's servants. The feud was resolved in the end with the help of the couple's maid, Sianang.

Tantingco said the production had one simple goal—to allow the modern audience to "see [the play] as our ancestors saw it."

The Center for Kapampangan Studies, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and the Filipinas Heritage Festival Inc., chaired by Bambi Harper, produced the play.

## Miracle

Staging the humorous "Ing Managpi" in this day and age was short of a miracle since very little of the script survived.

According to the producers, Cornelio, Pabalan Byron's brother, published the script on May 19, 1909.

Decades later, in 1961, researchers like Ely Javillonar, studied the texts. Then E.Y. Cunanan retyped the script in new Pampango orthography (discarding the letters c, f, j, q, v, x and z) and Icban-Castro printed the entire 11 scenes in her anthology.

The problem was in the musical scoring. The surviving text failed to document the original music and lyrics by Amado Gutierrez David and the rare musical sheets that were rescued from Mt. Pinatubo's lahar in 1995 were faded and tattered beyond recognition.

The difficult task of reconstructing the five songs fell on the shoulders of Rodolfo "Stan" Palma, a member of the family behind the "Orchestra Palma."

## From memory

The Palma clan, beginning with Stan's great grandfather Pablo Palma and grandfather Faustino Palma, had breathed music into the zarzuelas in Bacolor's Teatro Sabina and Guagua's Teatro Trining between 1900 and 1925.

Stan, 46, said his connection with the past was never lost.

He kept in touch with Nestor Galura, great grandson of Felix Galura Napao, a contemporary of Pabalan Byron and Soto. Galura also collected zarzuela scripts.

Members of the Palma clan gather every year on Holy Thursday to rehearse for the Good Friday processions. On one of these occasions, Stan asked his uncle, Prof. Virgilio Palma, to do a *tirirín* (humming or playing of songs based on memories of hearing their elders performing it).

As the melodies took form, Stan said he consulted Galura to validate the compositions.

Next, Stan reconstructed the lyrics through Galura's recollections of what his great grandfather had passed on to him.

## Unity

The Palma-Galura tandem laid the groundwork for the zarzuela's restaging by asking a select set of Bacolor residents to perform the play during the town's La Naval fiesta in November 2005.

The May 26 restaging of the "Ing Managpi" at the HAU did not have the full *comparsa* (a set of violins that carried the melody, a guitar and bass). But Stan assembled 16 violinists for the occasion, with his 8-year-old daughter Cyrielle Marie Palma, a fifth-generation artist, among the musicians.

Through Cyrielle's help, Remejia Lacson (playing Doña Juana) and Rona Reyes (playing Sianang) mastered the melody.

"I hope the play will be a unifying factor for us Bacolorños," Stan said, explaining why he took on the task.

His town, once the Philippines' capital, was buried by volcanic mudflow in 1991, losing most of it to the disaster until 1997. The residents remained scattered in at least seven resettlements but some 5,000 families have returned to settle permanently.

## Preserve culture

Harper said more works should be restaged and Filipino arts and culture, on the whole, should be preserved as these are in "greater danger" of being erased or forgotten due to the threats of globalization.

"Culture connects the past and the future," Harper said, just before lights bathed the stage for the open-air performance.

The play will go on tour in campuses and communities around Pampanga, said Tantingco.

The modern cast—Lacson, Reyes, Edgar John Ocampo (Don Diego) Roilinger Calilung (Permin) and Daniel Maglambayan (Pablo)—said they hope to equal if not surpass the zarzuela's maiden performance 105 years ago which featured Paula Gozun, Carmen Alfaro, Teodoro Andaya, Dionisio Magyan and Ignacio Navarro.

The difficult task, they said, was to master the language of the time that Pabalan Byron,

in defiance of the Spanish colonizers, memorialized in words.

Pabalan Byron's zarzuela "Apat Ya Ing Junio" (The Fourth of June), which Icban-Castro wrote as the "best," has yet to be revived on stage.

"Apat Ya Ing Junio" mirrored a historical event, when Kapampangan revolutionaries stormed the garrison in Bacolor by throwing burning coconut husks at the building and killing Spanish soldiers.

The attack headed Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo's

proclamation that fixed the noon of May 31, 1900 as the hour for the start of simultaneous revolts.

**NEXOR**  
HDPE Solid and Corrugated Pipes  
100% VIRGIN GRADE  
Tel: (02) 712-9410  
Website: www.nexorpipes.com

**TAGAYTAY VACATION HOMES**  
Located Along Tagaytay National Highway Inside a Fully Developed Subdivision  
**READY FOR OCCUPANCY**  
HOUSE & LOT PACKAGE  
P1,950,000  
372-3206; 410-6655 or (0917) 852-4808  
Website: www.taybay.com email: vacation@taybay.com

**Panda Ballpen**  
Simply the Best!  
29 years of Unsurpassed Quality  
Manufactured by: GOLDEN MAPLE INDUSTRIAL CORP.  
Tel. 800-1111 to 800-1117 or 800-1150, Fax: (032) 500-1125

## There are lives we touch to help build someone's dream.

"Noong ako ay nag-aaral bilang SAKA scholar, natutunan ko na ang farming pala ay exciting. Lalung-lala na noong tinuruan kami ng kaalaman sa pagnenegosyo. Sinabi nila, 'James, education is a continuous process.' Yun ang gustong-gusto ko. Yun ang pasasalamat ko - ang Shell tinutungan ako."

**James Bruma**  
Sanayan sa Kakayahang Agrikultura  
(SAKA) Scholar



**James Bruma.** Just one of the many lives we've touched to help make our world a better place to live. As a SAKA scholar, James learned about organic farming through the Shell Training Farm in Camarines Sur, a project of the Filipinas Shell Foundation. SAKA is an agricultural skills training program established in 1985 that transforms out of school youths into a new breed of farmers. The program is 70% hands on and 30% theory. It's a program that also provides start-up loans so SAKA scholars can generate income by trading their livestock and crops.





For investors, brokers, landowners & developers !!!

## INVESTING IN REAL ESTATE SERIES

1:30-6:00 p.m., 2nd Flr, Max's Rest., Glorietta 2, Ayala Cntr., Makati

### SEMINAR DATES & TOPICS

(Topics may be attended separately)

- Jun 26 INVESTING IN REAL ESTATE: OPPORTUNITIES, TECHNIQUES & WHAT YOU NEED TO LEARN BEFORE INVESTING
- Jun 28 LEGAL ASPECT OF SALE, MORTGAGE & LEASE WITH CONTRACT DOCUMENTATION AND REGISTRATION
- Jun 30 MAXIMIZE INCOMES OF YOUR RENTAL PROPERTIES
- July 3 JOINT VENTURES FOR REAL ESTATE PROJECTS
- July 5 TAXATION ASPECTS OF REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS INCLUDING PROPERTY ASSESSMENT BY LGU's
- July 7 HOW TO START & MANAGE A SUCCESSFUL REALTY OFFICE
- Jul 10 MAKING BIG MONEY IN DISTRESSED PROPERTIES
- Jul 12 HOW TO'S OF REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL
- Jul 14 PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT W/ HLURB RULES & UPDATES
- Jul 17 HOW TO'S OF INSTALLMENT SALES & LEASE-TO-OWN
- Jul 19 REAL ESTATE FINANCE AND INVESTMENT ANALYSIS
- Jul 21 MATHEMATICS OF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT
- Jul 24 REAL ESTATE ACCOUNTING: avoiding violations & penalties
- Jul 26 HOW TO PREVENT & REMEDY FORECLOSURE
- Jul 28 BUYING & FINANCING YOUR FIRST HOME: what u need to know

For more details, call 681-0928 or email: urbanet@pacific.net.ph  
Or simply text your fax no. or email address to CP# 0916-426-9174

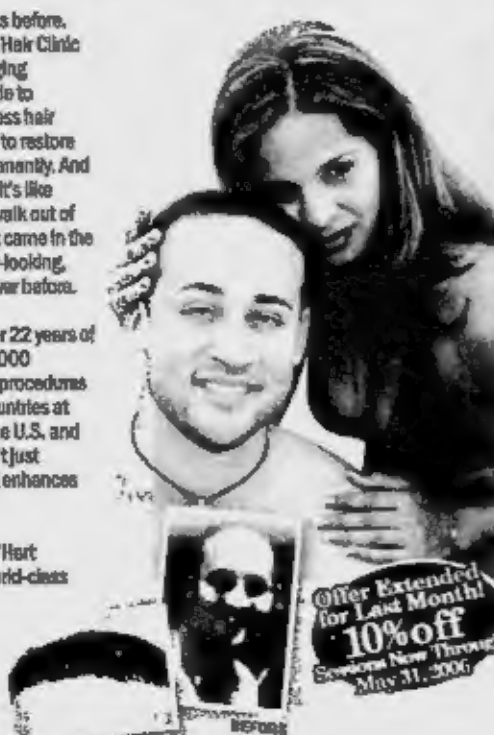
URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE

## Revitalize Your Appearance with Nu/Hart

We've seen it so many times before. People come to a Nu/Hart Hair Clinic with thinning hair and flagging self-confidence. They decide to undergo our virtually painless hair transplantation procedure to restore their natural hairline permanently. And after the procedure, well...it's like seeing a different person walk out of our clinic than the one that came in the first time. Not just younger-looking, but more confident than ever before.

It still amazes us. After over 22 years of performing more than 25,000 individual hair restoration procedures on clients from over 40 countries at nine Nu/Hart centers in the U.S. and overseas, Nu/Hart doesn't just improve people's looks, it enhances their lives.

That's what you get at Nu/Hart Manila. It's not just our world-class hair transplantation procedure. You get a boost in your self-confidence and your ability to enjoy life to the fullest.



**NU/HART**  
HAIR CLINICS  
There's A New You Waiting at Nu/Hart

Consultations Available in Bacolod, Cebu, Davao, and Iloilo.  
Visit our website at [www.nuhart.com](http://www.nuhart.com) or e-mail us at [info@nuhart.com](mailto:info@nuhart.com)

MANILA • HONG KONG • NEW YORK • CHICAGO • ATLANTA • PITTSBURGH • PHILADELPHIA • PUERTO RICO • DUBAI

CREATE YOUR FUTURE NOW!  
BE A QUEZONIAN!

# THE MANUEL L. QUEZON UNIVERSITY

OFFERS NEW COURSES FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2006 - 2007

Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering (B.S. CoE)

Bachelor of Science in Electronics & Communications Engineering (B.S. ECE)

Bachelor in Paralegal Studies (A.B. PS)

**ENROLLMENT NOW GOING ON!**

Other courses offered: Arts & Sciences, Accountancy & Business Arts, Architecture, Criminology, Education, Engineering, Graduate Studies, Information Technology, Law and Kinder, Elementary & High School

School of Education: PACUCOA Level II Third Re-Accreditation  
School of Arts & Sciences: PACUCOA Level II First Re-Accreditation

For further information, visit us at  
916 R. Hidalgo St., Qulapo, Manila  
Tel Nos. (632) 734-01-21 to 24  
Or visit our website at [www.mlqu.edu.ph](http://www.mlqu.edu.ph)

## PDI reporter, cartoonist cited

From page A1

tooning at the awards night held in Hong Kong on Thursday.

A third Filipino, former INQUIRER business reporter Elena Torrijos, now writing for the Singapore-based Asian Banker Journal, won the most prestigious prize, taking the Local Journalist Award.

Rivera, who covers the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, was cited for her series of stories on the mine spill that led to the closure of the Lafayette mining operations on Rapu Rapu Island in Albay.

The series of stories was published six months before the Rapu-Rapu fact-finding commission

released its report recommending the closure of the mine and a review of the Philippine Mining Act.

Rivera's stories came out in the INQUIRER in November 2005.

Daroy won honors for his cartoons on the December 2004 tsunami that struck Asian coastlines and killed about 200,000 people, and on the Burma (Myanmar) issue in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Awards were given in 17 categories in each of three divisions—regional publications, large magazines and English wire services (Division A); for local newspapers and small magazines in English (B), and for Chinese-



RIVERA won honorable mention for her coverage of the Lafayette mining accident in Rapu-Rapu, Albay.

language publications (C). Both INQUIRER awards were won in Division B.

### Clear, informative writing

Torrijos won the top journalist award, which covered all three divisions, for what a judge described as her "clear and informative writing that helps the readers see and understand the subject."

The other categories included excellence in business reporting, human rights reporting, news photography and features, as well as opinion writing, magazine cover design, special issue, explanatory reporting, public service journalism, reporting of breaking news and the scoop award.

The awardees were honored at a dinner at JW Marriot Hotel here.

Keynote speaker Anson Chan, Hong Kong's former chief secretary for administration, made a strong pitch for press freedom and free flow of information in the former British colony under the concept of "one country, two systems."

### Post dominates

Chan assailed Internet giant Yahoo for giving information on web users that led to the arrest of a journalist in the China mainland.

Hong Kong's dominant newspaper, the South China Morning Post, which won the environmental reporting and editorial cartooning awards, dominated Division B, topping nine of 17 categories.

The Financial Times won five awards and Time Asia took four of 17 categories in Division A.

The Society of Publishers in Asia was founded in 1982 to foster cooperation and understanding among its members.

### Media's vitality

The Sopa awards were established in 1999 to pay tribute to excellence in both the traditional and new media and encourage vitality in the region.

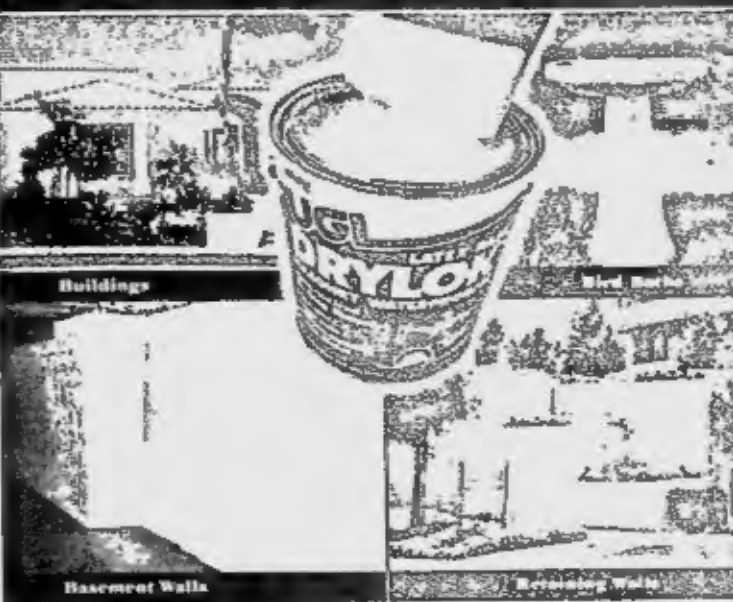
Nancy Vallente, Filipino chair of the Sopa and managing director of the South China Morning Post, said the record number of entries this year "signifies to the vitality of Asia's publishing industry and the strong commitment of regional journalists to editorial excellence in an increasingly competitive media environment."

### Record entries

A record number of 457 entries from across the region were evaluated by a board of judges made up of 85 journalists, editors and academics from top national and regional media and top universities in Asia.

"We had a remarkably strong collection of winning entries this year, which shows that the dramatic increase in the overall number of submissions for Sopa awards is being accompanied by a commensurate rise in overall quality," said David Platt, Sopa director of judges from the University of Hong Kong's Journalism and Media Studies Center.

## DRYLOK Good For More Than Just Basements.



America's #1 Waterproofing is the most versatile. DRYLOK Masonry Waterproofing is ideal for masonry, concrete, stone and below grade masonry. Wherever water and masonry meet, DRYLOK waterproofs, protects, and fortifies.

**NEW MANILA HARDWARE 733-1972 / 733-2148**

Handyman Pioneer 687-5083 • Handyman Novalliches 936-1866 Handyman  
Ermila 526-5249 • Handyman Fillinvest 807-8870 • Handyman Metro East 688-  
1354 • Alabang Home Depot 771-1623 • Ortigas Home Depot 636-0772 • Wilcon  
Libis 634-8387 • Wilcon Balintawak 382-8521 • Wilcon Alabang 809-6496 • MC  
Home Depot Makati 893-3070 MC Home Depot Fort 815-4759 • MC Home Depot  
Ortigas 636-6994 • True Value Alabang 807-5225 • True Value Rockwell 898-  
0908 • True Value Shangri-la 635-0408 • True Value Park Square 893-4593

RICH INNOVATION MARKETING INC. 733-7783 / 733-3007

### VICTOR SELECTIVE RACKS

Selective Rack designed with the up-to-date Engineering Technology. This system is the best for storing and retrieving of different products in the same bay of pallet stored space.

### RAVENDO

Platform Trucks from DENMARK

- 500 Kg. Load Capacity
- Heavy Duty 8" Rubber Wheels
- Simple yet Sturdy Industrial Design

### LOG TRUCKS

2.25-4.3 Tonn Load Low & Standard Profile Wide & Narrow Pallets

### HYDRAULIC STACKERS

Lift Heights Available:  
1,600 MM / 2,450 MM  
2,850 MM / 3,300 MM  
1 Metric Ton Max Load Electric & Manual Models

### Supermarket Shelves & Carts

### MG 200Z

3, 5, 6, 80-150 Liter Customer Trolley Bright Zinc plated Floor Lacquered

**VICTOR HARDWARE** 817-896 G. Aranzeta Ave., Quezon City, Philippines  
Tel: (632) 743-4761 Fax: 743-4457

Where you find the best.



**JOB Market**

VISIT US AT [www.jobmarketonline.com](http://www.jobmarketonline.com)

**St. Theresa's College Manila Foundation opens**

**MOTHER REDEMPTA PRE-SCHOOL**  
for a *NEW* generation of Theresians

**Accepting Pupils for School Year 2006-2007**

Boys and Girls,  
3 ½ - 5 ½ years

### REQUIREMENTS

Two (2) 2"x2" recent color photos

For Filipinos

1. Birth certificate
2. Baptismal certificate (For Roman Catholics)

For foreign nationals

- a) Alien Certificate of Registration
- b) Study permit from the Department of Education



**CALL: 524-7767**

1089 Camachile Street, Singalong, Manila  
(Near College of St. Benilde-Angelo King Institute)



# House set to address attendance problem

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NOW wants to do something about absentee members "plaguing the chamber."

But how far can it go? Administration lawmakers on Friday backed House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles's move to "reform" absentee members by imposing disciplinary action on [those] who frequently fail to attend plenary sessions and committee hearings.

House Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin and Deputy Majority Leader Antonio Cerilles said it was time the House cracked the whip on truant congressmen who failed to perform their primary task of overseeing legislation.

They believed that imposing decisive and punitive action on absentee members would help the House regain the public's trust and respect.

Nograles said he will call a caucus this week to address the "chronic problem" of quorum.

## Stricter policies on attendance

Nograles, who chairs the committee on rules, said he shared the sentiments of Quezon Rep. Erin Tañada, who complained last week that the lack of quorum prevented the lawmakers from performing their job of enacting laws at a faster pace.

"The leadership will address this in caucus [this] week, together with issues on Charter change. We need to come up with stricter policies on attendance," Nograles said.

Empty session hall seats have been a common sight in the chamber since late last year.

There were days when only five or six lawmakers held session—the presiding officer (usually a deputy speaker), one of the assistant majority leaders, one or two of the deputy minority leaders, the sponsor of the proposed measure and the interpellator.

More than half of the 236-member chamber were usually absent, while about 50 of those lawmakers who were present were usually either in their offices receiving guests or whiling away the time in the congressional lounge.

It was Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. who first called attention to the failure of the House last year to muster the required quorum, which is 50 percent plus one of the 236 congressmen.

## Lack of warm bodies

Pichay said the lack of warm bodies to transact business (session days are Monday to Wednesday) reflected badly on the House leadership.

But the problem persisted, prompting the presiding officer and majority leader to appeal on many occasions to the House minority not to question the quorum in order to speed up the legislative mill.

The last time the chamber had enough warm bodies on the floor was on May 16 when Speaker Jose de Venecia presided over the resumption of the second regular session of the 13th Congress.

After that, the majority (with the cooperation of a friendly minority) had to resort again to the myth in parliamentary procedure that there's a quorum unless one questions it.

But with the Speaker himself complaining lately about the slow pace of Charter change, Nograles has had to address the chronic absences.

Michael Lim Ubac

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, May 29, 2006  
7th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 19:1-8  
Gospel: John 16:29-33  
The disciples said to Jesus, "Now you are speaking plainly and not in veiled language! Now we see that you know all things, even before we question you. Because of this we believe that you came from God."

Jesus answered them, "You say that you believe! The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me."

"I have told you all this, so that in me you may have peace. You will have trouble in the world; but, courage! I have overcome the world."

### Commentary

This is the time of the Spirit that completes baptisms, deepens and confirms belief, and makes us public witnesses. It is the Spirit that teaches us, guides us, encourages us, and transforms our words and works, ethically and religiously into the deeds of God in Jesus.

And Jesus warns us: do you really believe? Like the disciples, do we panic, scatter and run when something confronts us, and we become rejected; or do we disagree among ourselves that one can't see the Spirit for all the individual agendas? The disciples leave Jesus alone, and sadly the Church still does the same thing. It is only in Jesus, the Word of God, that we find peace and it is that peace that gives us the courage to overcome our own weakness and the world.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Maywood St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cat@claret.org; Websites: <http://www.bible.claret.org> (Claretian Publications Inc.) & <http://mis-sionaries.claret.org> (Claretians in the Philippines)

Plan your summer holidays now to the hottest deals!

Singapore  
from Clark

2328

\* one way

"What's new pussycat?"

from P

VISA

May from 29 May - 4 Jun 06. Fly from 1 - 31 Jul 06.

Book Now! [tigerairways.com](http://tigerairways.com)

Shuttle bus available - Philippines Terminal at 3A Macanill, Origas Centre (P300) and Philippines Ferry Terminal (P350) to/from Diosdado Macapagal International Airport. Overland: Singapore • Chiang Mai • Suva • Davao • Cebu • Manila • Hong Kong • Taipei • Seoul • Osaka • Tokyo • Taipei • Singapore • Bangkok • Kuala Lumpur • Medan • Jakarta • Surabaya • Denpasar • Singapore.

SONY

HANDYCAM.



shoot

**playback** 5.1ch Surround Sound

**share**

**DVD Handycam. Capture the thrills in 5.1ch Surround Sound!**

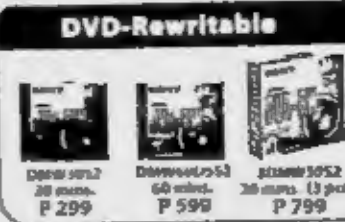
Superb images. Intense Surround Sound. Maximum fun. Sony's latest range of DVD Handycam models combines the best of both worlds. It's the thrill of 5.1ch Surround Sound with stunning picture quality and the convenience of DVD. Record your memories in 5.1ch Surround Sound. Record sounds from every direction while shooting your video, and give every moment with your Handycam perfect definition on your 5.1ch surround home theatre system. It's like being there all over again.

**Sony's latest range of DVD Handycam models**

DVD605	DVD705	DVD755	DVD805	DVD905
• 1/8" Advanced HAD CCD	• 1/5.5" 1.0 Mega Pixel CCD	• 1/5.5" 1.0 Mega Pixel CCD	• 1/3" 3.31 Mega Pixel CCD	• ClearVid CMOS Sensor with Enhanced Imaging Processor
• Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar Lens	• Mega Pixel Engine	• Mega Pixel Engine	• Mega Pixel Engine	• Carl Zeiss Vario-Sonnar T* Lens
• 20x Optical Zoom / 600x Digital Zoom	• High Quality 16:9 Widescreen Recording	• Memory Stick Duo slot	• High Resolution 3.0 Mega Pixels Still Image	• 4 Mega Pixels Still Image Recording
		• Comes w/ External Mic		• 3.5" Clear Photo LCD Plus Touch Screen

**P36,999 • P44,999 • P54,999 • P64,999 • P74,999**

\* DVD605 & DVD705 are not equipped with Dolby Digital 5.1 Creator Surround Sound recording function



For more info regarding promotions and compatible accessories, pls. contact below or visit your nearest Authorized Sony dealers.

www.sony.com.ph

Exclusively Distributed by: Sony Philippines Inc., 26th Fl. Tower 1, 4766 The Enterprise Center, Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, 1226 PHILIPPINES.

like.no.other™

SONY

**Sony Summer Pleasures 2006**

Contact us to get hold of a FREE copy of Sony's promo catalogue at 878-7600 or visit our website at [www.sony.com.ph](http://www.sony.com.ph)

Catch the promo craze this summer only from Sony! Promo period: April 22 to July 2, 2006

For DR NCR Manila 400 2128 (Sun 10 2006)



19	010	50
21	20	21
21	7A	27
2	16	1
13	167B	7/1
14	167B	8/1
14	177C	2/2
17	167D	6/15
6	16	5/16
10	19	6
12	19	12
16	19	15
12	21FE	125
19	21	10
11	20	11
4	20	4
17	20	17
22	21	23

(Sgd.) **FREDERICK A. LAJ**  
General Manager

A1	Yantze River (Three Gorges) Cruise Tour <b>New Century Cruise Deluxe 5 Star</b> • Century Star • Viking Century Sky • Viking Century Sun 5/08, 6/22, 6/05 (Long Junction tour available)	C5	East China 8 - 8 Days
	Departure: 4/10, 4/24, 5/08, 5/22, 6/05	C6	Northeast China 8 - 9 Days
C3	Pearl River Delta Tour 4 - 6 Days	C7	Central China Cultural Tour 7 - 8 Days
C4	Southwest China Scenic Tour 6 - 9 Days Shangri-la, Tibet 8 Days	C8	Jiuzhaigou National Park 6 - 8 Days
		C9	Zhangjiajie National Forest Park 6 - 8 Days
		C10	Silk Road 8 - 14 Days
		D	Mount Putuo Pilgrimage 4 Days

MECHANICAL INSURANCE AND PERSONAL TRAVEL ASSISTANCE by **ASSIST-CAR**

For more details pls. contact your nearest travel agency or ...



## PANDA TRAVEL SERVICE INC.

479 - 481 Sto. Cristo Street, Binondo, Manila  
 Tels. 242-2606 Trunk line Fax 242-2660 ; 242-2662  
<http://www.pandator.com>




PTAA



2005  
MOST  
OUTSTANDING  
TRAVEL AGENCY  
IN THE  
PHILIPPINES

<b>HONEY HOLIDAYS</b>		
<b>4D</b>	<b>HONGKONG</b> (With DISNEYLAND Day Tour) Daily departure	\$33
<b>4D</b>	<b>2N HKG w/ DISNEYLAND + 1N SHENZHEN</b> Dep. June 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29	\$24
<b>6D</b>	<b>HKG + SHENZHEN + MACAU + ZHUHAI + CANTON</b> Dep. June 4, 11, 18 & 25	\$29
<b>4D</b>	<b>SHANGHAI</b> FULLBOARD Dep. June 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	\$238
<b>10D</b>	<b>BEIJING + SHANGHAI + HKG W/ Disneyland</b> Dep. June 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	\$48 up
<b>10D</b>	<b>BEIJING + SHANGHAI</b> Every Mon, Thurs, Fri & Sun	\$369
<b>6D</b>	<b>XIAN + BEIJING</b> Dep. June 4, 11, 18 & 25	\$45
<b>10D</b>	<b>XIAN + BEIJING + SHANGHAI</b> Dep. June 5, 12, 19 & 26	\$53
<b>100D</b>	<b>XIAN + BEIJING + SHANGHAI + GUILIN</b> Dep. June 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	\$53
<b>100D</b>	<b>MONGOLIA + BEIJING + SHANGHAI</b> Dep. June 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	\$58
<b>100D</b>	<b>BEIJING + SHANGHAI + HARBIN + JILIN + CHANGCHUN + SHENYA + DALIAN</b> Dep. June 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30	\$68
<b>4D</b>	<b>BANGKOK</b> Every Mon., Thurs & Sat	\$29
<b>4D</b>	<b>BANGKOK + PATTAYA</b> FULLBOARD Every Thursdays & 18 & 25	\$33
<b>6D</b>	<b>BANGKOK + ANGKOR WAT</b> FULLBOARD Every Tuesday	\$55
<b>8D</b>	<b>JAPAN TOUR</b> (OSAKA-KYOTO+UNIVERSAL STUDIO+NAGOYA +KIT.FUJII-YOKOHAMA-TOKYO) FULLBOARD Dep. June 5	\$18
<b>10D</b>	<b>NEW YORK+PHILADELPHIA +WASHINGTON DC+NIAGARA FALLS +KUALA FULLBOARD</b> June 4, 11, 18 & 25	\$19
<b>SPECIAL PROMO</b>		
<b>4D SINGAPORE \$199</b> Dep. June 3, 17 & 24		
<b>*MARTI 882-8831 to 367</b> <b>*RIVINDO 247-1456 to 57</b> <b>*PRINITA 522-1921 to 59</b> <b>*STA CRUZ 783-4254 / 711-4778</b> <b>*CANANAYA 283-3376 / 270-4378</b> <b>*SAN JUAN 722-4514 / 700-2814</b> <b>*ORTIGAS 833-6588 / 634-6388</b> <b>*CUBAO 411-4120 / 412-6388</b> <b>*CEBU 231-8887 / 231-8838</b> <b>*GLSA ANG 0817-528888 / 0822-8113388</b>		
<b>*JOHN LUNA 883-3383 to 84</b> <b>*SAMPALOC 740-3887 / 418</b> <b>*O.C 833-6511 / 435-5514 / 4</b> <b>*DOMINICANA 835-7147 / 11</b> <b>*MOVALICHES 830-5887</b> <b>*MANILA/TORONTO 747-3878</b> <b>*ALABANG 845-5694 / 845-3</b> <b>*PAMPANGA 861-2000 / 88</b> <b>*QUEZONVILLE 225-3814 / 12</b> <b>*CUBAO 226-3246 / 267-48</b>		



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

11 December 2000

## NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF AWARD

Notice is hereby given that the list awards of the following beneficiaries in the Legal Housing Development Project are hereby CANCELLED immediately in view of their failure to comply with the conditions of their awards such as non-acceptance, non-payment of their monthly amortization and said those awarded lost without the consent of the Authority. Thus:

NAME	PHASE	OLD		NEW	
		BLK.	LOT	BLK.	LOT
1. ROBERTO A. LI BOMBO	III-E2	40B	10	01B	10
2. LADISLAW C. ROLLIS	III-E2	41A	21	20	21
3. BENJAMIN V. TANGKERO	III-E2	40A	27	7A	27
4. LAURO DELOS SANTOS	III-E2	46B	2	16	2
5. CONSORCIA BATERAL	III-E2	46D	13	16/2B	1/10
6. WALFREDO D. VILLABRILLE	III-E2	46B	14	16/7B	0/11
7. LEOPOLDO J. JOYRIS	III-E2	46C	12	17/7C	2/12
8. RUI HAVENTURA A. AGANA	III-E2	46C	16	16/7D	6/13
9. FERRANDO M. OPEL	III-E2	46B	17	16/7D	5/16
10. TELIXIBRI R. CASTILLO JR.	III-E2	46B	17		
11. ERNESTO M. GAYA	III-E2	46A	6	19	6
12. ARSLINA T. MAGUAYLO	III-E2	46A	12	10	12
13. ROMULO C. PARADO	III-E2	46A	10	10	10
14. DOMINADOR P. MAIRIRAS	III-E2	46C	12	21/1E	12/2
15. BONIFACIO M. ANDRINO	III-E2	46C	16	21	16
16. DOMINGO B. SATURA	III-E2	46A	10	21	10
17. DOMINGO B. ARGENTANO	III-E2	49A	11	20	11
18. BONIFACIO C. AQUINO	III-E2	49B	4	20	4
19. MACELL B. GARCIA	III-E2	49B	17	20	17
20. ISABELA R. DE QUINA	III-E2	49B	22	21	22

(Sgd.) **FEDERICO A. LAM**  
General Manager



# MILF junks provision in RP-OIC deal

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on Saturday rejected one of the provisions in the six-point agreement forged recently by the Philippine government and the influential Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

Khaled Musa, deputy chief of the MILF information committee, said the group was surprised when the government and the OIC agreed "to converge" elements of the peace agreement between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) with the peace negotiations being conducted with the MILF.

The agreement was embodied in a joint communiqué between Manila and the OIC issued on May 22 following a fact-finding mission by the latter to review the status of the 1996 peace accord between the government and the MNLF.

Musa said that while the MILF desired to work closer with the MNLF and other groups dedicated to the defense and promotion of the interests of the Bangsamoro people, they reject

ed the provision even if the intention appeared to be good.

"The MILF deserves all the right to be consulted. The framework of the MNLF peace pact with the government differs radically from what the MILF is negotiating with the government," Musa said.

Musa said the MILF will seek clarification of the issue from the OIC.

The OIC brokered the talks that led to the signing of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement between the government and the MNLF. The MNLF was granted observer status in the OIC in 1977. The government and the MNLF finally signed a peace accord in 1996.

Also agreed upon during the recent OIC fact-finding mission was the need to review the 1996 peace agreement in a high-level tripartite meeting to be set up in Jeddah as soon as possible; the renewal of efforts to bring the peace dividend to the Bangsamoro people with the support of OIC member-states, the Islamic Development Bank and the

Pund for Islamic Solidarity; the early resolution of the case against MNLF chair Nur Misuari within the framework of the Philippine judicial process; the sustenance of the breakthrough for peace and unity in Sulu brought about by the visit; and

the continuation by the government to seek observer status in the OIC. *Jeffrey Mautem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

**Agencia de Empresas de Makati, Inc.**  
OF ALL THE BUSINESSES, THE MOST PROFITABLE  
(AGENCIES: AVIATION, HOTELS & RESORTS)  
(FREE PRINTING QUANTITIES)  
Associated with:  
sec 8760  
PUNYAN CAYAN  
PUNYAN CAYAN  
PUNYAN CAYAN  
TRY US: T 854-0282  
NO FRAUD, NO STOLEN PLEASE

**FIGHT CLUB**  
WE HAVE IT ALL!  
No. 1 Source for Boxing, Kickboxing & MMA Gear  
**FIGHT CLUB SPECIALTY GOODS COMPANY**  
400 Batac St., Batac, Batac, Batac  
Tel. 8 890-4499 Cell. 8 8217-2828  
Visit our website at: www.fightclubph.com

**PANASONIC**  
FREE 8 Telephone Units  
Authorized sub-dealer  
**intell communication corp.**  
316 Aurelio Bldg. 1, 9th Ave. Caloocan City  
363-1083 - 364-8277

**Industrial Wet & Dry Vacuum Cleaner**  
ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT for CARWASH BUSINESS  
P39,500  
Heavy-duty High Pressure Washer  
P3,500  
FREE DELIVERY within Metro Manila  
Major Credit Cards Accepted. Deferred Payment Up to 24 Mths.  
MANILA 1851 M. OROSAO MALATE MALA  
Tel. Nos.: 5244328 • 5240529 • 5245290  
C.C. 641 QUEZON AVE. Tel. 7490581 • 7493709

**NEW**  
Soon to dominate the skyline  
**MAKATI EXECUTIVE TOWER III**  
Cityland Square, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Plo del Pilar Makati City  
40-storey Office, Commercial & Residential Condominium  
Own a unit for as low as **P9,773/mo.**  
Amenities:  
Swimming Pool, Children's Playground, Function Room / Gym, Roof / Viewing / Jogging Deck, Sauna for men & women, 24-hour Association Security.  
1222 24-555 01-00 2010V  
www.cityland.net

**ALL IN, NO HIDDEN CHARGES**  
Jett Asia SINGAPORE **\$308**  
BANGKOK **\$285**  
PHILIPPINE EXPLORER  
OFFICE: 438-3942 438-5185 439-5982 0822-083-0647

**Special Promo Package**  
HONGKONG  
BANGKOK SINGAPORE  
OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TICKETS/PACKAGES ARE AVAILABLE  
WE ALSO OFFER PASSPORTING  
VISA ASSISTANCE & NSO  
SAMS TRAVEL & TOURS  
Call: 2432610, 2414731

**SUMMER TIME IS HERE!**  
COME & COOL DOWN AT  
**JED'S ISLAND RESORT**  
Mc Arthur Highway, Calatagan, Batangas  
Call: (044) 202-5320 (044) 875-1652 (02) 741-4480 (02) 711-7265

**Colors of Flying Star Cruises**  
Super Star Virgo \$195  
SUMMER PACKAGES  
KOTA KINABALU \$147  
BANGKOK \$215  
SINGAPORE \$223  
KUALA LUMPUR \$208  
KUALA LUMPUR + CENTING HIGHLANDS \$233  
SINGAPORE + MALAYSIA + INDONESIA \$285  
SINGAPORE + MALAYSIA \$383  
GUAN \$130  
NEW ZEALAND (Land Arrangement Only) \$368  
WEST OF THE WEST (Land Arrangement Only) \$671  
SLOU \$555  
JAPAN \$529  
AUSTRALIA \$589  
Call: 2432610, 2414731

**CONVERT YOUR GATE TO REMOTE CONTROLLED**  
P25,000 P25,000  
For Free Installation!  
Call: 2432610, 2414731  
Available @ MC Fort, Makati & Ortigas  
Cebu (032) 3465498 Davao (082) 2358821

**FURNACE SYSTEM**  
to use grain dryer without kerosene  
Color Sorter  
Wood / Belt Conveyor  
DRYER Capacity: 6-12tons  
Also design for Rice Mill System  
TEL: (02) 6700-5678 (8 Digit)

**TOP QUALITY Water Refilling Station Systems and Replacement Parts**  
WATERCARE MARKETING, PHILIPPINES  
3933 L. Rocas Cor. Santol St., Sampaloc, Manila, Philippines 1008  
Tel. # (632) 716-6998 (trunkline)  
Wholesale: 716-8080 (bulk orders only)  
Industrial Dept. (632) 716-0880  
Fax # (632) 716-0903  
E-mail: watercare@phl.com  
Also Available At:  
- SM Megamall, 6/F Bldg. A  
- SM City Fairview, LGF  
- SM Mall of Asia, SP118  
- SM City Cebu, LGF  
- MC Home Ortigas  
- MC Home Fort Bonifacio  
Bringing the World's Best in Water Treatment to the Filipino People  
PENTEK  
Authorized Distributor & Importer of Pentek Filter Cartridges & Housing, Structural Tanks, Back Control Valves, GE Osmosis, PSI Filterbag, Baghouse, etc. for all types of industries, homes, schools, offices, etc.  
"Quality Water, Quality Life"

**idac**  
AIR CONDITIONING  
The New Split Type Aircon  
Wall-Mounted 1hp-P16,500  
Floor Mounted 3hp-P39,500 5hp-P55,000  
Free Installation!  
Call: 2432610, 2414731  
Available @ MC Fort, Makati & Ortigas  
Cebu (032) 3465498 Davao (082) 2358821

**GO WITH THE MAN YOU KNOW!**  
Study at  
**VERNON TAPALLA'S COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALISTS and THE WRITING INSTITUTE**  
RC DISCOUNT PACKAGES  
The Success & Confidence Building Program  
On Speech Improvement, Effective Self-Presentations & Personality Development  
On Grammar & Conversational English  
On Public Speaking & Leadership Training  
On Business & Technical Writing  
On Feature & Creative Writing  
On Speech, Grammar, Public Speaking, Confidence Bldg., Personality Dev't  
Reading and Comprehension for kids  
PRIVATE TUTORING & CORPORATE TRAINING ARE AVAILABLE!  
MAKATI - 892-9502, 892-9503 ALABANG - 845-0886

**David Link**  
Time keeping tool  
Do it by FINGER PRINT  
FINGER SCAN  
Stand-alone capability even without PC  
Network capable  
30,000 and 50,000 record storage  
1,000 and 1,500 user capacity  
PROXIMITY DEVICE  
1,000 LD capacity  
30,000 transaction storage  
Register and Identification LD card  
Built-in back-up battery  
With David-Link you can:  
- Reduce tardiness & early departure  
- Record absence time-keeping tools  
- Eliminate time related  
Call: 894-2310, 894-2311, 894-2312, 894-2313, 894-2314, 894-2315, 894-2316, 894-2317, 894-2318, 894-2319, 894-2320, 894-2321, 894-2322, 894-2323, 894-2324, 894-2325, 894-2326, 894-2327, 894-2328, 894-2329, 894-2330, 894-2331, 894-2332, 894-2333, 894-2334, 894-2335, 894-2336, 894-2337, 894-2338, 894-2339, 894-2340, 894-2341, 894-2342, 894-2343, 894-2344, 894-2345, 894-2346, 894-2347, 894-2348, 894-2349, 894-2350, 894-2351, 894-2352, 894-2353, 894-2354, 894-2355, 894-2356, 894-2357, 894-2358, 894-2359, 894-2360, 894-2361, 894-2362, 894-2363, 894-2364, 894-2365, 894-2366, 894-2367, 894-2368, 894-2369, 894-2370, 894-2371, 894-2372, 894-2373, 894-2374, 894-2375, 894-2376, 894-2377, 894-2378, 894-2379, 894-2380, 894-2381, 894-2382, 894-2383, 894-2384, 894-2385, 894-2386, 894-2387, 894-2388, 894-2389, 894-2390, 894-2391, 894-2392, 894-2393, 894-2394, 894-2395, 894-2396, 894-2397, 894-2398, 894-2399, 894-2400, 894-2401, 894-2402, 894-2403, 894-2404, 894-2405, 894-2406, 894-2407, 894-2408, 894-2409, 894-2410, 894-2411, 894-2412, 894-2413, 894-2414, 894-2415, 894-2416, 894-2417, 894-2418, 894-2419, 894-2420, 894-2421, 894-2422, 894-2423, 894-2424, 894-2425, 894-2426, 894-2427, 894-2428, 894-2429, 894-2430, 894-2431, 894-2432, 894-2433, 894-2434, 894-2435, 894-2436, 894-2437, 894-2438, 894-2439, 894-2440, 894-2441, 894-2442, 894-2443, 894-2444, 894-2445, 894-2446, 894-2447, 894-2448, 894-2449, 894-2450, 894-2451, 894-2452, 894-2453, 894-2454, 894-2455, 894-2456, 894-2457, 894-2458, 894-2459, 894-2460, 894-2461, 894-2462, 894-2463, 894-2464, 894-2465, 894-2466, 894-2467, 894-2468, 894-2469, 894-2470, 894-2471, 894-2472, 894-2473, 894-2474, 894-2475, 894-2476, 894-2477, 894-2478, 894-2479, 894-2480, 894-2481, 894-2482, 894-2483, 894-2484, 894-2485, 894-2486, 894-2487, 894-2488, 894-2489, 894-2490, 894-2491, 894-2492, 894-2493, 894-2494, 894-2495, 894-2496, 894-2497, 894-2498, 894-2499, 894-2500, 894-2501, 894-2502, 894-2503, 894-2504, 894-2505, 894-2506, 894-2507, 894-2508, 894-2509, 894-2510, 894-2511, 894-2512, 894-2513, 894-2514, 894-2515, 894-2516, 894-2517, 894-2518, 894-2519, 894-2520, 894-2521, 894-2522, 894-2523, 894-2524, 894-2525, 894-2526, 894-2527, 894-2528, 894-2529, 894-2530, 894-2531, 894-2532, 894-2533, 894-2534, 894-2535, 894-2536, 894-2537, 894-2538, 894-2539, 894-2540, 894-2541, 894-2542, 894-2543, 894-2544, 894-2545, 894-2546, 894-2547, 894-2548, 894-2549, 894-2550, 894-2551, 894-2552, 894-2553, 894-2554, 894-2555, 894-2556, 894-2557, 894-2558, 894-2559, 894-2560, 894-2561, 894-2562, 894-2563, 894-2564, 894-2565, 894-2566, 894-2567, 894-2568, 894-2569, 894-2570, 894-2571, 894-2572, 894-2573, 894-2574, 894-2575, 894-2576, 894-2577, 894-2578, 894-2579, 894-2580, 894-2581, 894-2582, 894-2583, 894-2584, 894-2585, 894-2586, 894-2587, 894-2588, 894-2589, 894-2590, 894-2591, 894-2592, 894-2593, 894-2594, 894-2595, 894-2596, 894-2597, 894-2598, 894-2599, 894-2600, 894-2601, 894-2602, 894-2603, 894-2604, 894-2605, 894-2606, 894-2607, 894-2608, 894-2609, 894-2610, 894-2611, 894-2612, 894-2613, 894-2614, 894-2615, 894-2616, 894-2617, 894-2618, 894-2619, 894-2620, 894-2621, 894-2622, 894-2623, 894-2624, 894-2625, 894-2626, 894-2627, 894-2628, 894-2629, 894-2630, 894-2631, 894-2632, 894-2633, 894-2634, 894-2635, 894-2636, 894-2637, 894-2638, 894-2639, 894-2640, 894-2641, 894-2642, 894-2643, 894-2644, 894-2645, 894-2646, 894-2647, 894-2648, 894-2649, 894-2650, 894-2651, 894-2652, 894-2653, 894-2654, 894-2655, 894-2656, 894-2657, 894-2658, 894-2659, 894-2660, 894-2661, 894-2662, 894-2663, 894-2664, 894-2665, 894-2666, 894-2667, 894-2668, 894-2669, 894-2670, 894-2671, 894-2672, 894-2673, 894-2674, 894-2675, 894-2676, 894-2677, 894-2678, 894-2679, 894-2680, 894-2681, 894-2682, 894-2683, 894-2684, 894-2685, 894-2686, 894-2687, 894-2688, 894-2689, 894-2690, 894-2691, 894-2692, 894-2693, 894-2694, 894-2695, 894-2696, 894-2697, 894-2698, 894-2699, 894-2700, 894-2701, 894-2702, 894-2703, 894-2704, 894-2705, 894-2706, 894-2707, 894-2708, 894-2709, 894-2710, 894-2711, 894-2712, 894-2713, 894-2714, 894-2715, 894-2716, 894-2717, 894-2718, 894-2719, 894-2720, 894-2721, 894-2722, 894-2723, 894-2724, 894-2725, 894-2726, 894-2727, 894-2728, 894-2729, 894-2730, 894-2731, 894-2732, 894-2733, 894-2734, 894-2735, 894-2736, 894-2737, 894-2738, 894-2739, 894-2740, 894-2741, 894-2742, 894-2743, 894-2744, 894-2745, 894-2746, 894-2747, 894-2748, 894-2749, 894-2750, 894-2751, 894-2752, 894-2753, 894-2754, 894-2755, 894-2756, 894-2757, 894-2758, 894-2759, 894-2760, 894-2761, 894-2762, 894-2763, 894-2764, 894-2765, 894-2766, 894-2767, 894-2768, 894-2769, 894-2770, 894-2771, 894-2772, 894-2773, 894-2774, 894-2775, 894-2776, 894-2777, 894-2778, 894-2779, 894-2780, 894-2781, 894-2782, 894-2783, 894-2784, 894-2785, 894-2786, 894-2787, 894-2788, 894-2789, 894-2790, 894-2791, 894-2792, 894-2793, 894-2794, 894-2795, 894-2796, 894-2797, 894-2798, 894-2799, 894-2800, 894-2801, 894-2802, 894-2803, 894-2804, 894-2805, 894-2806, 894-2807, 894-2808, 894-2809, 894-2810, 894-2811, 894-2812, 894-2813, 894-2814, 894-2815, 894-2816, 894-2817, 894-2818, 894-2819, 894-2820, 894-2821, 894-2822, 894-2823, 894-2824, 894-2825, 894-2826, 894-2827, 894-2828, 894-2829, 894-2830, 894-2831, 894-2832, 894-2833, 894-2834, 894-2835, 894-2836, 894-2837, 894-2838, 894-2839, 894-2840, 894-2841, 894-2842, 894-2843, 894-2844, 894-2845, 894-2846, 894-2847, 894-2848, 894-2849, 894-2850, 894-2851, 894-2852, 894-2853, 894-2854, 894-2855, 894-2856, 894-2857, 894-2858, 894-2859, 894-2860, 894-2861, 894-2862, 894-2863, 894-2864, 894-2865, 894-2866, 894-2867, 894-2868, 894-2869, 894-2870, 894-2871, 894-2872, 894-2873, 894-2874, 894-2875, 894-2876, 894-2877, 894-2878, 894-2879, 894-2880, 894-2881, 894-2882, 894-2883, 894-2884, 894-2885, 894-2886, 894-2887, 894-2888, 894-2889, 894-2890, 894-2891, 894-2892, 894-2893, 894-2894, 894-2895, 894-2896, 894-2897, 894-2898, 894-2899, 894-2900, 894-2901, 894-2902, 894-2903, 894-2904, 894-2905, 894-2906, 894-2907, 894-2908, 894-2909, 894-2910, 894-2911, 894-2912, 894-2913, 894-2914, 894-2915, 894-2916, 894-2917, 894-2918, 894-2919, 894-2920, 894-2921, 894-2922, 894-2923, 894-2924, 894-2925, 894-2926, 894-2927, 894-2928, 894-2929, 894-2930, 894-2931, 894-2932, 894-2933, 894-2934, 894-2935, 894-2936, 894-2937, 894-2938, 894-2939, 894-2940, 894-2941, 894-2942, 894-2943, 894-2944, 894-2945, 894-2946, 894-2947, 894-2948, 894-2949, 894-2950, 894-2951, 894-2952, 894-2953, 894-2954, 894-2955, 894-2956, 894-2957, 894-2958, 894-2959, 894-2960, 894-2961, 894-2962, 894-2963, 894-2964, 894-2965, 894-2966, 894-2967, 894-2968, 894-2969, 894-2970, 894-2971, 894-2972, 894-2973, 894-2974, 894-2975, 894-2976, 894-2977, 894-2978, 894-2979, 894-2980, 894-2981, 894-2982, 894-2983, 894-2984, 894-2985, 894-2986, 894-2987, 894-2988, 894-2989, 894-2990, 894-2991, 894-2992, 894-2993, 894-2994, 894-2995, 894-2996, 894-2997, 894-2998, 894-2999, 894-3000, 894-3001, 894-3002, 894-3003, 894-3004, 894-3005, 894-3006, 894-3007, 894-3008, 894-3009, 894-3010, 894-3011, 894-3012, 894-3013, 894-3014, 894-3015, 894-3016, 894-3017, 894-3018, 894-3019, 894-3020, 894-3021, 894-3022, 894-3023, 894-3024, 894-3025, 894-3026, 894-3027, 894-3028, 894-3029, 894-3030, 894-3031, 894-3032, 894-3033, 894-3034, 894-3035, 894-3036, 894-3037, 894-3038, 894-3039, 894-3040, 894-3041, 894-3042, 894-3043, 894-3044, 894-3045, 894-3046, 894-3047, 894-3048, 894-3049, 894-3050, 894-3051, 894-3052, 894-3053, 894-3054, 894-3055, 894-3056, 894-3057, 894-3058, 894-3059, 894-3060, 894-3061, 894-3062, 894-3063, 894-3064, 894-3065, 894-3066, 894-3067, 894-3068, 894-3069, 894-3070, 894-3071, 894-3072, 894-3073, 894-3074, 894-3075, 894-3076, 894-3077, 894-3078, 894-3079, 894-3080, 894-3081, 894-3082, 894-3083, 894-3084, 894-3085, 894-3086, 894-3087, 894-3088, 894-3089, 894-3090, 894-3091, 894-3092, 894-3093, 894-3094, 894-3095, 894-3096, 894-3097, 894-3098, 894-3099, 894-3100, 894-3101, 894-3102, 894-3103, 894-3104, 894-3105, 894-3106, 894-3107, 894-3108, 894-3109, 894-3110, 894-3111, 894-3112, 894-3113, 894-3114, 894-3115, 894-3116, 894-3117, 894-3118, 894-3119, 894-3120, 894-3121, 894-3122, 894-3123, 894-3124, 894-3125, 894-3126, 894-3127, 894-3128, 894-3129, 894-3130, 894-3131, 894-3132, 894-3133, 894-3134, 894-3135, 894-3136, 894-3137, 894-3138, 894-3139, 894-3140, 894-3141, 894-3142, 894-3143, 894-3144, 894-3145, 894-3146, 894-3147, 894-3148, 894-3149, 894-3150, 894-3151, 894-3152, 894-3153, 894-3154, 894-3155, 894-3156, 894-3157, 894-3158, 894-3159, 894-3160, 894-3161, 894-3162, 894-3163, 894-3164, 894-3165, 894-3166, 894-3167, 894-3168, 894-3169, 894-3170, 894-3171, 894-3172, 894-3173, 894-3174, 894-3175, 894-3176, 894-3177, 894-3178,



# Phivolcs: RP must prepare for big one

From page A1

to prevent disasters caused by earthquakes is to anticipate and prepare for them."

He said the "good news" was that government agencies had been actively involved in earthquake preparedness.

He said the Department of Public Works and Highways had been inspecting public facilities.

The Department of Education and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority have joined the National Disaster Coordinating Council in advocating quake preparedness in both public and private schools, homes and offices.

"In the Makati business district, building administrators have come up with emergency evacuation plans. We're currently finalizing an action plan for the whole country," Solidum said.

## The sobering news

Still, the geographical reality can be pretty sobering.

A Phivolcs report furnished the INQUIRER said that the existence of subterranean "earthquake generators" and the recorded strong earthquakes that had hit the Philippines "should readily convince us that the country is indeed seismically active."

"We should also accept the fact that since earthquakes with magnitude 7 or more had affected us in the recent past, the likelihood of these destructive earthquakes occurring again in the future is in-

deed very strong," the report said.

Solidum said the West Valley Fault or WVF—formerly known as the Marikina Fault, one of the country's active faults—generated a magnitude 7-plus or major earthquake when it last moved about 200 years ago.

"We can't say when exactly it would move again. But considering its long repose period, the probability of it moving again soon is increasing and increasing," he said.

## 5-20 quakes a day

Movements along these faults and in several trenches, in addition to the two seismically rambunctious tectonic plates where the Philippine archipelago sits, generate between five and 20 earthquakes a day.

The WVF forms part of the so-called Valley Fault System, or VFS, located 5 km east of the center of Metro Manila.

It runs from Montalban, Rizal, in the north, passes through the eastern portion of Metro Manila, or west of Laguna de Bay, and extends southward, possibly as far as the Tagaytay ridge.

On the other hand, the East Valley Fault extends from Montalban south to the Pasig City area.

## Danger zones

In a briefing paper, Phivolcs said that "based on radiocarbon dates and soil development, scientists... have determined at least three rupturing events within the last 1,400 years along the VFS. The last earthquake that ruptured the system probably occurred dur-

## 5.3 quake in Babuyan

AN EARTHQUAKE MEASURING 5.3 on the Richter scale jolted the northern Philippines at 5 p.m. on Sunday with no report of damage or injuries, an official said.

The epicenter was located about 125 km northeast of Laoag in Ilocos Norte.

"The quake happened near the sparsely inhabited

Babuyan Islands," said Robert Tiglao of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology. "Earthquakes of this size are considered quite normal here in the Philippines."

On Saturday, a quake hit the Indonesian island of Java, killing about 3,800 people.

AFP

## Some of the destructive earthquakes the country has experienced

Date	Epicenter	Intensity	Surface magnitude	Death toll/injured
Nov 15, 1994	North of Mindoro	RF 8	7.1	78/430
Jul 16, 1990	Nueva Ecija	RF 8	7.8	1,283/2,786
Aug 17, 1976	Moro Gulf	RF 7	7.9	3,739/8,000
Mar 17, 1973	Rayay Gulf	RF 7	7.0	14/over 100
Apr 07, 1970	Bater, Quezon	RF 7	7.3	15/206
Aug 02, 1968	Aurora	RF 7	7.3	270/600
Apr 01, 1955	Lanao del Sur	RF 7	7.6	291/713
Jul 02, 1954	Sorsogon	RF 7	6.5	13/101

ing the 18th or 19th century."

In its April edition, National Geographic magazine featured the Philippines as one of the earthquake "danger zones" worldwide. It also tagged the country as an earthquake "high risk" zone.

In the National Geographic map, Asia's high risk areas—which include Japan, Taiwan, Indonesia, Pakistan, parts of China, India and Bangladesh—were shaded bright orange.

Asked how he would rate the Philippines in terms of preparedness on a scale of one to 10, Solidum said: "It's hard to say. We don't have the right indicators

yet. We're just starting a program of monitoring these earthquakes along with other countries around the world."

But he said that compared to Indonesia, the Philippines had a more sound building code.

"In Indonesia, reports said those destroyed by the quakes were buildings made of bricks, wood or basically old materials. Here, it is an entirely different thing," he said.

## RP better equipped

Solidum said the Philippines was "way ahead of our neighbors in terms of equipment."

From only 35 quake recording stations two years ago, Phivolcs

## IN THE KNOW

### Tracing faults

FAULTS ARE BREAKS OR ZONES OF weakness in rocks along which displacements occur, causing earthquakes. They may extend for kilometers across the earth's surface or tens of kilometers under it.

Earthquake generators are plate interactions, displacements along the Philippine fault zone and movements along other active faults.

The other active faults in the Philippines are Digdig in Aurora, Lupao, which runs from Nueva Ecija to Pangasinan; San Manuel in Pangasinan; Agubang River in Mindoro; Tablas off Panay and Marinduque islands; and Casiguran, which runs parallel to the East Luzon Trough and Mindanao.

The country's other earthquake generators include the Philippine Trench, East Luzon Trough, Manila Trench, Negros Trench, Sulu Trench, Cotabato Trench, Davao Trench, and the collisional zones between Palawan and Mindoro, the Zamboanga Peninsula and Western Mindanao.

currently operates a nationwide network of 64 seismic stations, put up with financial and technical aid from Japan.

Only 35 of the stations are manned. Solidum claimed the government's preparedness level the past couple of years was "definitely better than before."

"We now have more data. We also have guidelines on how to go about seismic hazards and other quake-related issues," he said.

According to Phivolcs, "the most seismically active" part of the country is its eastern section, with an average of 16 quakes a year.

"The other relatively active parts are found in the eastern side of northern Luzon and the vicinity of Lubang Island and Mindoro. The presence of the East Luzon Trench, Casiguran Fault and the northern segment of the Philippine Fault Zone make the areas near Dingalan Bay (in Aurora) and Casiguran Sound (in Quezon) earthquake-prone," it said.

### Patient and impulsive

In its cover story titled "Quake: The Next Big One," the National Geographic noted a "fundamental problem" with earthquakes.

"They refuse to operate on human standard time. They're on their own peculiar schedule. Earthquake faults have a nasty way of combining patience with impulsiveness," it said.

Today, some of the simplest questions about earthquakes remain hard to answer and the publication.

"Why do they start? What makes them stop? Why do some small quakes grow into bigger quakes, while others stay small?"

"And there's the broader question: Are there clear patterns, rules and regularities in earthquakes, or are they inherently random and chaotic?"

### Predicting earthquakes

History has shown the frightening power of earthquakes.

The Dec. 26, 2004, tsunami that wiped out more than 200,000 lives in several Asian countries was caused by a massive quake. A magnitude-7.6 quake centered in Kashmir last October killed 73,000 people.

The US magazine said earthquake prediction "remains a matter of myth, of fabrications in which birds and snakes and fish and bunny rabbits somehow sniff out the coming calamity."

"What scientists can do right now is make good maps of fault zones and figure out which ones are probably due for rupture. And they can make forecasts. Turning forecasts into predictions may be impossible, but scientists are doing everything they can to solve the mysteries of earthquakes."

### Quakes follow pattern

That's "very true," according to Solidum. Like their foreign counterparts, Phivolcs scientists also make maps of rocks and other things to see where the ground had shaken in the past, and how hard.

"In Japan, government scientists say they have settled the question (on the predictability of earthquakes)," the National Geographic said. "Earthquakes are not random. They follow a pattern. They have detectable precursors. The government knows where Japan's big one will most likely strike. This is a country where the trains run on time and earthquakes are supposed to do the same."

### Prepare in advance

Here, earthquake prediction is "still a problem for us," Solidum admitted.

He said that after the 1990 quake, Phivolcs conducted an initial study on what might happen in Metro Manila in terms of the impact of the different hazards posed by earthquakes, "like ground shaking, ground rupture and tsunamis."

Phivolcs followed that up in 2002 with a study of more detailed estimates of earthquake impacts and a master plan on reducing such impacts.

The agency is currently developing a tsunami sensor with funding from Finland.

"Technologically, we can't beat the arrival of a tsunami. So it's important that we advocate a community-based warning system," Solidum said.

He said: "We cannot predict when an earthquake will actually take place, but we know where that earthquake will be generated by mapping the country's quake generators. We trust they will not move at the same time. The best thing to do is to prepare in advance."

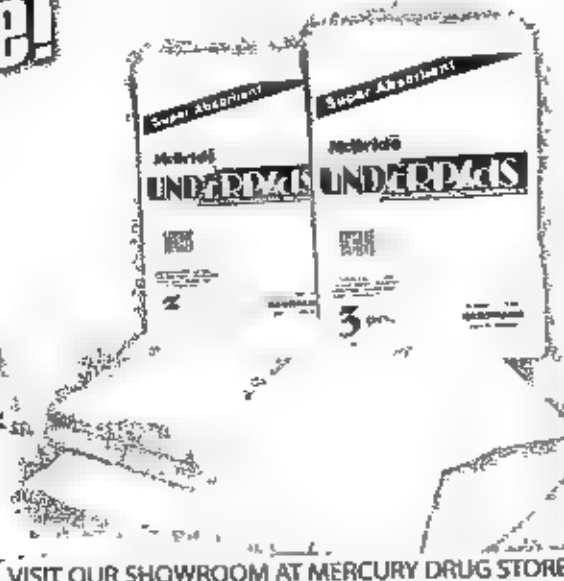
With a report from Christine O. Avendaño

**The Ultimate in Comfort, Care & Hygiene!**

**McBride Disposable Underpads**

SUPERIOR PROTECTION FOR:

- Bed Sheets
- Beddings
- Furniture
- Chairs & other surfaces



VISIT OUR SHOWROOM AT MERCURY DRUG STORE 2nd Floor Glorietta 3, Makati

Exclusively Distributed by

**Medical Center Trading Corp.**  
Pioneer St. Cor. Shaw Blvd., Pasig City  
Tel: 631-1715, 631-4335, 637-9904  
Fax: (0632) 631-7869 E-mail Address: medicalcenter@info.com.ph

**PANGASINAN**  
(075) 568-7390

**MANILA**  
(02) 222-4404

**LIPA**  
(043) 757-2051

**LOILO**  
(033) 320-1413

**PASIG**  
(02) 631-1715

**CAGAYAN DE ORO**  
(085) 256-8199

**CEBU**  
(032) 254-2367

**PAMPANGA**  
(043) 901-7892

Available at **mercury drug** Store Makati

**Breezy 200**



**SUNRISE MEDICAL**

www.sunrisemedical.com

U.S.A.

**BUILT FOR THE FUTURE**



**ELEVATING FOOTREST OPTIONAL**



Also available

**Breezy 300 Light Weight Series**

- sturdy red or blue with silver painted composite frame
- height adjustable armrests, push handles and back
- new cross brace for increased rigidity
- lighter 18.5kg body for easy transport
- padded armrest inside
- anatomical footrest (optional)
- new frame with lighter design



Visit Our Showroom at the 2nd floor, Mercury Drug Glorietta 3, Makati City, EDSA Shangri-La Plaza & Ayala Cebu

Exclusively Distributed by

**Medical Center Trading Corporation**  
Pioneer St. Cor. Shaw Blvd. Pasig City  
Tel: 631-1715, 631-4335, 637-9904  
Fax: (052) 631-7869 E-mail: medicalcenter@info.com.ph

**MANILA**  
711-8376

**PASIG**  
631-1715

**LIPA**  
(043) 757-2051

**PAMPANGA**  
(043) 901-7892

**PANGASINAN**  
(075) 568-7390

**CEBU**  
(032) 254-2367

**LOILO**  
(033) 320-1413

**CAGAYAN DE ORO**  
(085) 256-8199

Available up to 100% at **mercury drug** Store Makati

**HOLIDAY**

Book Your Mid-Year Vacation Now

Fly from

**Clark**

**Kota Kinabalu**

**1439**

**Kuala Lumpur**

**3529**

**Book Now!**

(advance booking required)

Travel Period: 15 June - 31 July 2006

buy online

**airasia.com**

Prices and fares are subject to availability. Seats are limited and may not be available on all dates, public holidays, school breaks and weekends. Fares exclude airport taxes, government and local charges, visas and other taxes.



# 65 Pinoys bring home tales of terror

From page A1

Manago, who worked as a welder in East Timor for three years, was in the first batch of Filipino evacuees to flee the Timorese capital of Dili.

The evacuees included two young girls and an infant.

First to disembark from a Philippine Air Force C-130 at Villamor Air Base was Rosalie Alvarado, who carried her month-old daughter, Rowena, in her arms.

## Tears flow

Alvarado's tears flowed as she was met by President Macapagal-Arroyo, who welcomed the evacuees home.

Ms Arroyo paid particular attention to the mother and child, urging Alvarado to take her lunch so that she could breast-feed Rowena.

In Dili itself, hundreds of UN employees were evacuated as rival gangs roamed the streets of the capital, torching homes and battling with machetes in defiance of foreign peacekeepers sent to quell the violence that has plunged the fledgling country into chaos.

Tens of thousands of residents also fled Dili or sought refuge in churches, embassies and at the airport, leaving much of the city deserted.

Smoke billowed from several areas where attacks were taking place. Australian troops rumbled toward the sound of gunfire in tanks and armored personnel carriers, but seemed to only briefly scatter combatants, according to The Associated Press.

Alvarado, a mother of six, worked part time in Dili, doing different jobs for four years. Her child's father, also a Filipino, stayed behind.

"I won't be going back there," said Alvarado, a native of Porac, Pampanga.

Many of the returnees described the situation in Dili as nothing short of terrifying. They stayed inside their homes, not daring to go out lest they got caught in the crossfire.

## Burning houses

"In our street, I saw people chasing each other with machetes. Three houses were burned there and four people perished in one," Adelyn Pascual, who said she worked at Dili's Ministry for Planning and Finance, told AP Television News.

At night, Pascual said she saw smoke and burning buildings, then she would see bodies sprawled near gutted buildings in the morning. She said while foreigners were not targeted, they could still be hurt in the clashes.

"You can't really avoid bullets because bullets couldn't distinguish from foreigners," she said.

"We couldn't do anything but to leave before we got hurt in the chaos. Something bad could happen to us," said Manuel Cruz, an engineer in Dili.

There are about 200 Filipinos working in East Timor as engineers, nongovernment organization volunteers and Christian missionaries.

A Filipino couple said that they had to lie on the floor inside their Dili apartment to avoid being hit by stray bullets.

The husband, who requested anonymity, said his Korean coworker was hit in the neck by a wayward bullet while peeking through his apartment window.

"That's how dangerous the situation there is," he said. "That's why when we were informed that the Philippine government would be sending a C-130 to have us evacuated, we immediately took it."

## Text messages helped

He said the Filipinos were immediately informed by the Philippine Embassy of the evacuation plan through an efficient text message.

"They work fast there," he said of the embassy staff led by Ambassador Parita Aguila-cho-Ong.

His wife had been there only a week for a visit when the violence erupted. He had been working in Dili for the last five years as a consultant in the country's Department of Education.

Jun Clomera, a 38-year-old engineer, said that even if the foreigners were not the direct targets in the strife, he chose not to step outside his house.

"Our movement there was limited because you really don't know what will happen next. The situation was very uncertain because there would be violence one day, things would cool down the next, then you'd hear rumors of attacks again," Clomera said.

Clomera had been working in Dili for a Japanese company for a year and a half.

Some 110 other Filipinos, including those working with the United Nations, had chosen to stay behind, according to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Among them was Fernando Flores, a Baptist pastor doing missionary work in Samanatuto, outside Dili.

"He decided to stay behind because he could not leave the many people we had taught," his wife, Jeannie, said.

Jeannie, 34, said she and her husband de-

cided that she should go home with their daughters, aged nine and eight. "We've seen buildings being burned down. It's just not safe for our girls," Jeannie said.

The couple had been doing missionary work in East Timor for the last six

years. They were sent there by their church, the Lapasan Baptist Church, based in Cagayan de Oro City.

A C-130 remains on standby in case a second evacuation is needed, Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr. said.

"We are watching the situation very, very closely," Conejos said.

Conejos also said Chief Insp. Edgar Layon, who was shot in the stomach during a clash among East Timorese, remained in stable condition in a private hospital in Darwin, Australia.

**TOTAL PABX**  
COMMUNICATIONS

Call Transfer  
Music-On-Hold  
Call Privacy  
Intercom

**3300**

**WARRANTY SYSTEMS** Call for FREE DEMO 872-9973 to 77

# Napekeng gamot ka ba? PATAY!

## MAY MGA GANITO BANG PALATANDAAN?

- Walang generic name
- Kupas ang kulay
- Madaling madurog
- Nakakaduda ang presyo
- Nakakaduda ang pinanggagalingan

Para makaiwas sa pekeng gamot, suriin mabuti ang label at ang gamot mismo. Hingin ang lot number at expiration date ng binili ninyong gamot.

Bumili lamang sa BFAD-licensed drugstore.

FOR PROOF, ITAGO ANG GAMOT AT RESINO. ISUMBONG AT FAKEMED  
TOLL-FREE 1-800-13-FAKEMED (3253633)

## WANT TO SEND MONEY ABROAD FAST?

**WESTERN UNION**  
FAST, RELIABLE, WORLDWIDE MONEY TRANSFER

With the Western Union SEND-MONEY-ABROAD Service, the money you send is received in minutes!\*

\*Subject to hours of operation, time zone differences and applicable regulations.  
Call 888-5208 (Metro Manila), 1-800-1-888-1200 (toll-free outside Metro Manila), or text 0917-668-1200 for more information.





## Goodbye, dear nurses

**T**HE US SENATE HAS JUST PASSED AN IMMIGRATION bill that, among other provisions, lifts the limit on the number of foreign nurses who can immigrate to the United States. To be sure, the bill faces strong opposition from the US House of Representatives, and the provision lifting the cap on the number of special visas for nurses is not even on the counterpart House bill.

It looks unlikely that the provision, as phrased, will make it into law. But the possibility of the flow of US-bound Filipino nurses turning into a flood does exist, if not now, then when the nursing shortage in the United States becomes especially acute. Are we ready for it?

According to The New York Times, the shortfall of registered nurses in the United States reached 118,000 last April. In 2002, the US government estimated that the shortfall will hit 800,000 by 2020. It must have been numbers as dire as these that prompted Sen. Sam Brownback to sponsor the proposal. Last week, he told the media he did not expect the provision to drain African countries of their nurses, but he admitted that the impact on the nursing professions in the Philippines and India could be considerable.

The Philippines already sends several thousand nurses to the United States every year; in fact—though you wouldn't know it from watching the cluttered emergency rooms in the medical dramas of American TV—it is the United States' biggest source of foreign nurses. A registered nurse can expect to earn some \$36,000 a year in the United States (about P1.9 million). Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan told The New York Times. In contrast, a nurse can expect to earn \$2,000 in the Philippines (about P106,000, or less than P9,000 a month). Given these numbers, an open-door policy for foreign nurses can only bring more applicants to America's doorstep.

But if the Philippine health care system is already under heavy strain because several thousand nurses leave for abroad every year, that same open-door policy may actually force the system's collapse. "The Filipino people will suffer because the US will get all our trained nurses," George Cordero, president of the Philippine Nursing Association, told The New York Times. "But what can we do?"

What can we do, indeed? The British, who have shown the way in condoning developing-economy debt, are pushing the envelope in the nursing issue too. They have allotted about £100 million to "compensate" their main sources of foreign nurses, in Africa. The money can go to develop more nurses, perhaps to meet national needs, or at least to make sure that the goose that lays the golden egg stays reasonably healthy.

The US Senate immigration bill carries no provision on compensation. It seems to be based on a classic economic assumption: Let the market decide. If the United States offers both opportunity and income, other countries will simply have to grin and bear it. We say "seem" because the economics behind the provision is actually highly selective.

While the American Hospital Association welcomes the possibility of more foreign nurses, the American Nurses Association opposes it. Granted, a large part of the opposition is based on simple fear; more foreign nurses will mean fewer American ones. But American nurses also oppose the provision because it is a short-term and simple-minded solution to the health care problem.

"We're disappointed that Congress, instead of providing appropriations for domestic nursing programs, is outsourcing the education of nurses," Erin McKeon, the nursing group's associate director of government affairs, told The New York Times. According to the National League for Nursing, some 155,000 qualified Americans who applied for nursing school were turned down in 2005. Why? Not enough schools, not enough slots.

Instead of the US economy repairing the problem by investing money in new nursing schools and more nursing teachers, with higher pay (teachers earn less than the nursing students they turn out), the US government settles for the easy answer—and consequences in the developing world be damned.

We are loathe to see travel restrictions imposed on Filipinos of high ability and solid ambition. But when our hospitals can no longer function because most of our nurses are in the United States, such drastic measures may be necessary. It is in our best interest that we both prepare for that eventuality and prevent it from coming to pass.



## More mysteries in botched Masinloc sale

IN A PREVIOUS COLUMN, (PDI, 5/19/06) I narrated how the greed and naiveté of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM) are making the National Power Corp's assets, which are being privatized, easy prey to shysters.

On Dec. 1, 2004, PSALM bid out the 600-megawatt Masinloc coal-powered plant. YNN Pacific Consortium won the bid at \$582 million. To close the deal, the winning bidder must pay up-front 40 percent of the bid price (\$222 million of the \$582 million), plus a performance bond of \$11.2 million. In case the bidder does not come up with the down payment, PSALM can confiscate the bond.

When the deadline for the payment came (Dec. 2, 2005), YNN could not fork out the needed cash; its reputed Australian partner could not be found. PSALM could have confiscated the \$11.2-million performance bond then. But for some strange reason, PSALM extended the deadline for three months—to March 31, 2006, although, under the bid documents or under the law, there was no basis for the grant of the extension.

The new deadline, March 31, 2006, came and went but still there was no payment from YNN. For a second time, PSALM could have seized the bond. But again, PSALM gave YNN another 90-day extension, or until the end of June 2006. YNN also offered to increase the value of the performance bond by \$3 million, to \$14.2 million, as penalty for the delay in the payment of the \$222 million. A new partner, Ranhill Berhad of Malaysia, was reported to have assumed the obligation to pay both the \$222 million down payment and the \$14.2-million bond, although, again, Ranhill's takeover from YNN's original Australian partner was not sanctioned by PSALM's bidding rules. Not only that, Ranhill slipped in an additional condition to the effectivity of the \$14.2-million bond: that Masinloc be first assured of a supply contract with Meralco.

Meralco has nothing to do with it, and a supply contract was not part of the conditions of the bidding. If it were, PSALM could have at-

### As I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



tracted more and better bids. The government cannot force Meralco to sign a supply contract with Masinloc. Considering the high price, this would result in very high power rates for consumers. Ranhill is trying to change the conditions of the already-concluded bidding.

PSALM had until last weekend to accept or reject Ranhill's unusual proposal. As if it had a choice. The Asset Purchase Agreement (APA) for Masinloc provides that the performance bond cannot, under any circumstance, be made subject to any condition. PSALM's only logical course of action was to reject the proposal, confiscate the original, \$11.2-million bond, and hold another public bidding.

PSALM's strange behavior is wrecking the credibility of the government's privatization process. Why is PSALM like this?

To find out, let's take a closer look at the people and circumstances behind this botched deal. YNN's local shareholder (let's call him "Mr. A") happens to be a distributor of wires and cables sold to power utilities like Meralco. His YNN Holding Corp. also happens to be the 60-percent owner of Duracom Mobile Power Corp., a small 108-MW barge-mounted independent power producer (IPP) in Navotas, selling power to Meralco. His partner in Duracom is East Asia Power Resources Corp., owned in turn by the American El Paso Energy. At the time the partnership was signed in 1993, the president and part-owner of East Asia's Philippine operations was none other than "Mr. B" who is now a ranking official of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

The partnership of Mr. A and Mr. B was further cemented when they brought into the pic-

ture another 108-MW barge. The sister company was called the East Asia Diesel Power Corp. Documents exposed by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile in the Senate showed Mr. B agreeing to pay Mr. A commissions running up to about 15-21 centavos per kWh, or as high as P150-P200 million per year, and a success fee of US\$3 million for securing contracts for the additional capacity.

The relationship between Mr. A and Mr. B is still alive and well, and it manifested itself during the Masinloc saga.

Where it gets even stickier is how Mr. B appears to be helping his friend from his position in the ERC. The first time this happened was when Duracom applied for and was granted by the ERC a 20-percent increase in tariff rates. This effectively gave Duracom an additional P20 million in revenues per month.

More recent incidents seemed to have been carefully calibrated to force Meralco to sign a contract with YNN. Last Dec. 22, 2004, the ERC issued guidelines titled "Amendment to the Guidelines for the Recovery of Costs for the Generation Component of the Distribution Utilities Rates." The title sounds like a mouthful, but in a nutshell it had the effect of requiring distribution utilities, like Meralco, to certify that they have conducted public biddings in the procurement of new power supply contracts with generation companies.

This was seen as a move to protect consumers. Immediately thereafter, several utilities dutifully complied and publicized their upcoming requirements for power supply.

But two weeks ago, on May 10, 2006, the ERC again baffled the power industry by issuing Resolution No. 21. Although there had been no complaints, the ERC suspended transparent public bidding for utilities procuring their power supplies. The resolution used some lame excuse: the guidelines were temporarily being shelved because they forgot to hold public hearings on them. Is this freeze meant to conveniently open a window for Mr. A and YNN to sign a sweetheart deal with Meralco? Only three out of the five commissioners signed Resolution No. 21.

## 'Hao-siao'

### THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



sponsibility. The Commission on Human Rights and Amnesty International are right about that. The head of that government should be feeling deeply guilty and ashamed of herself, and her justice secretary should be feeling like an absolute failure, if not an irredeemable fool. For them to now say that, out of the goodness of their hearts, they are allowing journalists to arm themselves is breathtaking cheekiness. And that on the condition that journalists first behave by ridding their ranks of scoundrels, broadly hinting that the victims also brought the mayhem upon themselves!

At the very least, Gonzalez is the last person to be talking about fake and genuine. Never mind that he cannot tell real justice from a fake one, mind only that he cannot tell a real President from a fake one. Never mind that he cannot tell legitimate grievance from a fake one, mind only that he cannot tell a legitimate government from an illegitimate one. By all means let us remove the hao-siao journalists in our midst. But first, let us remove a hao-siao President—and her hao-siao Cabinet—from our gaze.

While at this, it should be the easiest thing in the world to remove the hao-siao journalists in this country. Gonzalez himself knows who they are. They are the poseurs, mercenaries and quacks in the administration's payroll.

I can never sufficiently belabor my arguments about why arming journalists is the most stupid thing in the world. On the part of the journalists, arming them is at the very least useless. You arm journalists, all you'll succeed in doing is add to their assassins' arsenal after they've been shot in the back. At the very most, you arm journalists, you make them a menace to society. As it is, this country is already crawl-

ing with abusive journalists who have gunpowder for brains, and not all of them will fall into Gonzalez's category of hao-siao since they are regarded as legitimate journalists by an illegitimate government and by corrupt, if not illegitimate, media organizations. You make them paranoid further with the threat of motorcycle-riding assassins waiting to whiz by and you are going to have a lot of KFC, Jollibee and Pizza Hut delivery boys littering the pavement with their bodies.

But more than that, you arm journalists—and go on to praise the GMA government for it—you add to the mind-boggling crime of journalists being slaughtered wholesale in our midst the even more mind-boggling crime of freeing that government from blame.

It's not just that this government is guilty of dereliction of duty. Though that is a mind-boggling crime by itself. Any government that has a record of journalists—and activists—being murdered on this scale has forfeited its right to exist even if it were an elected one, and this one isn't so. It voids all pretensions to democratic rule completely. The protection of the right to free speech includes keeping the speakers alive. There's no democracy when the State says, "By all means talk, but bahala ka sa buhay mo" (completely literally, your life is your own lookout).

But more than dereliction of duty, the government is directly, immediately and implacably guilty of the slaughter of the journalists. You do not stop mayhem of this scale, you do not just tolerate it, you encourage it. You keep harassing media, accusing the industry's practitioners of sedition and threatening them with all sorts of reprisal, you do not just encourage it, you suggest it. You keep complaining loudly to your thugs about journalists the way Henry II complained loudly to his lieutenants about Thomas à Becket saying, "Will no one rid me of this turbulent priest?" you do not just suggest it, you demand it.

Under this regime, the only things left that are real are corpses. Everything else is hao-siao.

Publisher: SAGAN YAMROT  
Editor in Chief: LETTY JIMENEZ-MAESANOC  
Managing Editor: JOSE MA. D. MOLASCO  
Associate Editor: ABELARDO S. ULANDAY  
Associate Editor for Readership: ROSARIO A. GARCILLANO  
News Editor: ARTEMIO T. ENORACIA JR. • Chief, News Duty Desk: NILO B. PAULINO  
Opinion Editor: JORGE V. ARLITA  
National Editor: PERCINTINO B. BANGAYAN JR.  
Senior Desk Editor: JUAN V. SAMPANTO JR.  
Editorial Consultant: AMANDO DORCHILA  
Chief Photographer: ERNESTO U. SAMPANTO  
Art & Design Director: LYNETT A. VILLARMA  
Board Chairman: MANDI R. PINEYO  
President: ALEXANDRA PINEYO-ROMUALDEZ  
Executive Vice President: DAVID O. VALDES  
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing: RENATO R. REYNOSO  
VP for Advertising: SANDY R. OLARTE  
AVP for Circulation: FELIPE SIMON R. YAP

Readers' Advocate: LORNA KALAW TIMOL

readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8808, Ext. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of this Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without the prior written permission.



## My Charter change credo

IN THE ONGOING DEBATE ABOUT CHARTER change, there are two issues which may be blocking the rational discussion of each. These are (1) the legality of the procedure, and (2) the wisdom of the changes being proposed.

I believe that before we can effectively discuss the wisdom of the changes being proposed, we should first settle the issue of the legality of the procedure. For as long as this latter issue is not cleared, current advocates of Charter change will continue to face inhospitable reception.

About legality, there are two propositions which I believe are unassailable and which are responsible for much of the inhospitable reception of the proposed changes.

First, there can be no Charter change without the participation of the Senate. We can debate about the manner or extent of Senate participation, but the Senate cannot be excluded altogether. This is because Charter change proposals have been committed by the Constitution to Congress, which is a bicameral body.

Second, until an initiative and referendum law is passed for Charter change, neither amendment nor revision may be proposed by initiative and referendum. This is because the Supreme Court has said so, through *Santiago v. Comelec*, in 1997.

Now the debatable parts.

First, the Senate's participation. There are two arguable ways in which this can be satisfied. One (which I prefer) I would call strict, and the other minimalist. Strict participation means that three-fourths of the Senate should vote in favor of any proposed change. But a minimalist approach would say that if at least a majority of the Senate should vote in favor, the needed Senate participation would be satisfied. However, if separate voting is required—and I maintain it is—the minimalist approach would not satisfy the three-fourths language of the Constitution.

As to initiative and referendum, we can debate on whether the changes sponsored by Sigaw ng

## SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.



Bayan constitute mere amendments or a revision. But the fact is: there is no enabling law for either amendment or revision. The decision of the Court on this issue became final in 1997 and the Court no longer has jurisdiction to review that decision today. A new law must be passed.

We can kid ourselves with the kindergarten argument that the individual sections being proposed by Sigaw, taken by themselves, are mere amendments; but it would make no difference. There is no enabling law. Period. I cannot see how it can be any clearer.

Now let us talk about joint session or no joint session. Under the 1935 Constitution, the law was very clear. Congress had to be in joint session for purposes of proposing amendments. Thus, to be able to propose amendments, the two houses had to be in joint session. In other words, Congress then was a constituent assembly; that is, an assembly empowered to propose amendments, only if in joint session. The text was clear: "Congress in joint session assembled..."

The present Constitution does not say anything about a joint session. It simply says that Congress may propose amendments. This means that even now, without a joint session, Congress is already a constituent assembly empowered to propose amendments. The only question is how.

May the two houses come together in joint session for purposes of discussing Charter change? There is no prohibition against that. Does the bicameral character of Congress prohibit joint session? I answer with another question. Does the bicameral character of Congress prohibit bi-

cameral conference committees? It does not because the decision of the bicameral committee has to be confirmed by each House. So, too, for as long as the two houses decide separately, there is no offense to the bicameral nature of Congress.

But if in joint session, why may they not vote jointly? The reason is that Congress is a bicameral body and was made such after an intense debate in the 1986 Constitutional Commission. Why bother separating the two if they can act jointly on their own whim?

Since there is no provision commanding the two houses to come together, how then are they to propose changes? Since 1997, I have been espousing the proposition that they can propose amendments and revision where they are as they are. Once a Charter change is approved by a three-fourths vote of one house, it can be transmitted to the other house for similar action. There is no prohibition against that.

However, I would not give this process the misleading name of legislative process because it is not legislation subject to the rules of the legislative process. I would call it a constituent process, a process *sui generis*, and both houses would have to devise the rules for such process. The Constitution leaves the devising of procedural rules to a Constitutional Convention. So, too, it does for Congress as a constituent assembly provided that the rules do not transgress the bicameral character of Congress.

I realize that things would have been much simpler if the 1986 Constitutional Commission had simply copied the provision of the 1935 Constitution. But, let's face it, the Commission failed to do so. We are thus faced with a provision on Charter change which challenges our skills at constitutional construction. Indeed, it was an oversight. *Nostra culpa*. But we can also look at it, if you wish, as the 1986 Constitutional Commission's act of faith in the constraining skills of those who would be charged with implementing the Constitution.

## Decoded by SM

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO



Antonio J. Montalvan II

"While the stance of Mr. Sy is remarkable in an age when most businessmen, Catholic or otherwise, make decisions solely according to anticipated earnings, what I find most inspiring is the reasoning upon which his stance is based. His reasoning is so lucid that even the most crass anti-Catholic bigot must concede the point, namely, that the adoration of Jesus and desecration of Jesus, together with indifference thereto, stand in mutual opposition."

"Mr. Sy's admirably clear reasoning confirmed my prior suspicion that the Da Vinci Desecration is in fact apocalyptic, with a little 'a,' even if (perhaps?) not with a big 'A.' To wit, an apocalypse, properly speaking, is a revelation that the light of Christ and the darkness of evil stand so opposed that there is absolutely nothing in common between them. By demarcating the two positions as contradictory and leaving no middle ground, an apocalypse forces people to take a stand on one or the other side. The reasoning of Mr. Sy is instructive as it reveals that these two positions are precisely characterized by adoration on the one side and desecration or indifference on the other."

"This apocalyptic understanding should be a clarion call for Christians everywhere to wake up and smell the coffee!"

"Anyone involved in making or promoting the Da Vinci Desecration, whether they want to believe it or not, has spat directly on the Divine Face of Christ."

Owners of cinemas and bookstores who consider themselves Christians and have yet profited from the book or film have committed the sin of Judas. While we might lovingly correct these people where possible, it is imperative that we make reparation to the Heart of Christ for these outrages.

"Many who consider themselves Christians apparently find the film entertaining even while, presumably, not believing its deceptions. A simple hypothetical question gives the lie to this pseudo-position: Might one conceivably find entertainment value in a film that depicts one's own mother as a prostitute, murderer, liar and thief? The point is as compelling as it is clear: If you can read this book or watch this film without being outraged, you simply do not love Jesus! Even though you did not spit on His face as did those who made, promoted and profited from the film, He will spit you out of His mouth for being lukewarm! While we might fraternally correct these people, accordingly it is most imperative that we make reparation to the Heart of Christ for the lack of outrage that bears witness to their pathetically lukewarm hearts."

Bracy then proposes his idea of how to make reparation, along with his and his group's campaign to promote chapels of adoration, which they have been doing in Manila and in many other places for some time now. Finally he ends:

"It has been well said that evil triumphs only when good men and women fail in their duty to stand up for the good! This article is not intended to give you warm fuzzy feelings but to incite you to action! The action I propose is precise and potent."

It took SM to tell us that the truth cannot be "relativized."

\*\*\*

Comments to [monta@cu-cdo.edu.ph](mailto:monta@cu-cdo.edu.ph)

## Futile flags

THE LONG VIEW



Manuel L. Quezon III

mained unaware, to make manifest that our people are far from being gullible in the least." (Incidentally, the large Philippine flag hoisted during the Commonwealth inauguration was donated by General Ricarte.)

There seems to be no other record of Manuel Roxas having suggested the substitution of the flag's dark blue previously in use with the pale blue; what seems more probable is that Aguinaldo and Ricarte used flags with the same specifications as those of the flag in Malolos.

Forty-five years earlier, on Feb. 4, 1899, General Aguinaldo, in the name of the Republic and the people he headed, declared war against the United States. The Philippine flag was flown with the red field up, to show that a state of hostility existed. With the capture of Aguinaldo in 1901, which signaled the defeat of the Malolos Republic, the Philippine flag was displaced by the Stars and Stripes.

In 1907, as the elections for the First Philippine Assembly heated up, Fernando Ma. Guerrero, journalist and poet, decided to run as a candidate in Manila. Guerrero wanted to be a candidate of the Gran Partido Nacionalista, but he and Justo Lukban, were not nominated by the party to be its official candidates for the south and north districts of Manila. Guerrero and his supporters decided to walk out of the Gran Partido Nacionalista convention. Guerrero then set up the Liga Popular Nacionalista and won an overwhelming victory.

As one of Guerrero's young supporters, Teodoro M. Kalaw, later wrote, "During the tumultuous celebration of his [Guerrero's] victory, the Philippine flag was very openly displayed, and with great emotion. In contrast, the American flag received very little attention. Many American officers considered this an aspersion cast on the

American sovereignty of the Islands. As a consequence, the Civil Commission, a few days later, declared illegal the display of the Filipino flag, and, in general, the use of any emblem used in the Revolution."

This was the Flag Law of Aug. 23, 1907.

Filipinos never gave up their loyalty to their flag; the national colors were used in *sarsuelas* in the costumes of actresses as an allegory of the real thing. People continued to hope that their flag would be hoisted in public once again.

On Oct. 30, 1919, Francis Burton Harrison signed into law the Philippine Legislature's Act repealing the Flag Law. The bill had been sponsored by Sen. Rafael Palma.

General Aguinaldo, in quiet retirement, made a statement and said:

"The most historic Filipino flag was the one we raised in Kawit, Cavite, it having been recognized and saluted by the American squadron. It was the same flag that we used in Malolos, Bulacan, and was defended by our hosts [and] which, I believe, was finally deposited in the caves of the northern Carballo mountains in Nueva Vizcaya."

Like the flags of other nations, our flag has evolved over time. That evolution has added meaning to the flag. The latest change to the flag was the restoration of the Malolos colors—sort of, because the original sketch attached to our Proclamation of Independence seems to have been lost—in 1998, which I opposed at the time on the basis of evolution (two generations had grown up with the navy blue in our flag) and practicality (the new shades of blue and red would be difficult to standardize). The effort proved to be a failure—for a simple reason: It is virtually impossible to obtain the right, official colors on canvas, and impossible to make them on nylon; not to mention the absence of the necessary source materials for comparing and approving dyes. Which means flag makers "make do" with shades of blue and red that aren't what the law mandates. The flags of today thus represent the futility of our legal system.

Comments welcome at [www.quezon.ph/blog](http://www.quezon.ph/blog)

## Volcanic changes

BEHOLDEN. THIS WAS HOW I FELT WHEN I SAW THE Mayon Volcano. Majestic and mystifying from every angle, Mayon is a distinguishing landmark in the province of Albay. The volcano is also known to be a bountiful giver of life and a perilous and intimidating masterpiece of God.

This remarkable volcano served as the inspiring backdrop for the Mentoring the Mentors seminar-workshop held in the town of Gubat in April 24-27, 2006. The seminar-workshop had 39 participants, including highly esteemed principals and master teachers. As one of its facilitators, I watched in awe how the participants assimilated attributes of their beloved volcano into their lives.

## COMMENTARY

Kate Villaruz

During those four days, these Bicolanos oozed with passion and exploded with determination to champion a cause and work for a change in our country through another kind of revolution—the Education Revolution.

From the start of the seminar, the participants gradually realized the need for a change in their attitude toward the challenges of their work and the importance of their profession in social transformation. They shared earnestly felt experiences—from feeling desperate due to lack of school supplies and facilities to stress caused by intrigues and politics.

However, "*Kambio sa pananaw*" from an "Akin" to an "Akin" mentality became the dictum of these educators. Eventually, initiative, cooperation and responsibility were voluntarily offered as the best "means" with which to hurdle the stumbling blocks they've faced or might yet encounter in the future.

On the second day, issues concerning their main clientele—the children—took center-stage. The participants acknowledged their crucial role in the task of shaping the character of the young. Through various activities, such as sharing personal experiences as an educator and watching the movie, "Emperor's Club," the participants were reminded to respect the giftedness and uniqueness of every individual.

More significantly, they were encouraged to "walk their talk" in trying to live out values that would turn the young into responsible citizens. I personally handled this part of the seminar, and it was very inspiring to see the participants respond and express their renewed zeal for the teaching profession and their new sense of hope for the country.

By the third and fourth day, the participants, like the active Mayon, were flowing with energy. The free exchange of stories, laughter and songs, coupled with their dynamism, showed how they had come to feel at ease with each other. A sense of camaraderie was evident as they felt assured in the knowledge that they shared the same purpose.

The modules on "Leadership for Service," "The Art of Learning," "Designing Effective Instruction," "Teaching and Learning Strategies" further reinforced their sense of mission and inspired them to take on a more defined role as movers and shakers of this new kind of revolution. By the end of the seminar-workshop, the participants were bursting with excitement about their action plans even as they declared their commitment to bring about changes in their spheres of influence.

As a volunteer facilitator of the Mentoring the Mentors program, my experience in Albay deepened even more my commitment to the cause of Education Revolution.

In these trying times, when we Filipinos are desperately searching for heroes willing and ready to sincerely and fearlessly stand up for our country, I was fortunate enough to meet Bicolano principals and master teachers who possessed the humility and willingness to create the needed change in themselves first before attempting to change others. They exemplified heroism—the courage to fight for our country, the Philippines—not through protest, rallies or impeachment, but by the simple pursuit of their mission to educate and give hope to the youth, through role-modeling.

The most powerful volcanic eruptions have been known to begin with the most subtle seismic movements. While it may take time to see the effects of Education Revolution in Albay, there are now 39 Bicolanos who have committed to the cause and who are willing to work tirelessly to make a difference in the province. I am confident we will soon be witnesses to the fruits of their labor, which will explode and create lasting changes not just in Albay but in the entire nation.

(You may send your comments to the author at [mentor@fwpp.org](mailto:mentor@fwpp.org).)

Kate Villaruz is a volunteer facilitator for the Foundation for Worldwide People Power's Mentoring the Mentors Program. She is a high school history teacher at Assumption College San Lorenzo.

ON OCT. 14, 1943, IN FRONT OF THE LEGISLATIVE Building, Jose P. Laurel was inaugurated president of the Japanese-sponsored Republic of the Philippines. The ceremony was, in many respects, identical to the ceremonies inaugurating the Commonwealth of the Philippines some eight years earlier.

Like his predecessor, Laurel wore a cutaway. A Filipino—not foreign—prelate gave the invocation. And, according to one eyewitness, the crowd counted the exact number of cannon shots that boomed after President Laurel took his oath of office—in a sense, echoing the resentment over the American decision to grant only 19 guns in 1935. This time, Laurel was honored with a 21-gun salute.

And this time, the Philippine flag was hoisted to fly alone, as befitted a sovereign nation, which was what the Japanese said the Philippines had become.

An eyewitness, Antonio M. Molina, a teacher at San Juan de Letran, later described the event in his memoirs. Among other things, he wrote:

"Some five minutes before ten o'clock Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo and Gen. Artemio Ricarte, both of our defunct Revolutionary Government of 1898, hoisted the Philippine flag in the huge staff, to the tune of our national anthem, both hitherto banned. This time the applause was deafening. For my part, I must confess that I was unable to restrain some tears, even as I felt a knot in the throat. They were, indeed, the expression of the conflicting sentiments that assailed me: on the one hand, the irrepressible satisfaction upon seeing our national flag flutter alone, at long last, and, on the other hand, the fear of the shame that we might be making this flag participate in such sickening histrionic exhibition. I was somewhat comforted, however, upon recalling that, allegedly upon the suggestion of the Filipino leader, Manuel Roxas, the navy blue of our flag—the good, the genuine—as Spanish poet Fernan would say—had been substituted by a pale sky blue and that the proportion of the triangle dimensions in relation to the rest of the flag had been altered. This was the subliminal message of our protest, whereof the Japanese re-

## IN THE NEWS



Eduardo Ermita

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE The National Association of Philippine Newspapers





## Public servants support CESB

WE IN THE CONFEDERATION OF Independent Unions in the Public Sector (CIU), an umbrella organization of 170 workers' unions in national government agencies, government-owned and -controlled corporations, local government units and state universities and colleges, express our grave concern over the Arroyo administration's apparent bullying of the Career Executive Service Board.

We view this "uncivil war"—as the May 11 editorial of the *Inquirer* put it—as a serious threat not only to third-level government personnel but also to rank-and-file employees. We cannot ignore Malacañang and its Cabinet's transgressions of civil service laws, rules and traditions, as enumerated in CESB Resolution No. 619, just to yield the way for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's favorite "let's move on" line.

How can the goal of professionalizing the bureaucracy be achieved when the recruitment and appointment of public officials are neither based on merit and fitness nor done by a politically neutral body or individual? No way can we allow

this betrayal of our rights to go on!

Ms Arroyo is wont to quote her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal. "Respect the bureaucracy, respect the civil service." But even as she speaks these words and trims down the bureaucracy, she continues to create new offices and appoint "excess" undersecretaries and assistant secretaries who are not even career executive eligibles. Supposedly, they serve at the pleasure of the President, but definitely at the expense of legitimate and principled officers.

We in the career service are here to serve the public, not to please politicians. CIU's opinion is that Civil Service Commission Chair Katrina David and executive director Mary Ann Fernandez-Mendoza et al. are being subjected to harassment and vindictiveness for defending the right of Cesos (career executive service officers) to security of tenure.

Some lines from the 1961 campaign speech of President Macapagal may yet stir awake a sleeping conscience: "The primary and fundamental need of this na-

tion is moral leadership. The state of corruption in the public service depends upon the personal deals and examples of the highest official of the land.

"For my part, I seek nothing for myself or for my family.

"I seek the presidency with clean hands and an unimpeachable public record of rectitude."

With these words in mind, we in the CIU strongly and fully support the CESB and its Resolution No. 619. We call all employees' organizations in the government to stay vigilant in order to defend and preserve the strong foundations of a professional bureaucracy.

*Mabuhay ang mga manggagawa sa gobyerno!*

—EMAKO MERCEDITA O. NALDOZA,  
national chair,  
Confederation of Independent Unions  
in the Public Sector,  
Rm. 301 Rosario Bldg.,  
Scout Chusoteo St.,  
Roxas District, Quezon City

## LETTERS

## Learning from the parliament of the streets

THIS REFERS TO THE COLUMN, "Batasan 5: Where's the mass base?" by Honesto General. (PDI, 5/15/06) General suggested that "most of the marchers looked like students cutting classes, probably from the UP Political Science department."

The students, who actually came from different universities, did not cut classes. But, so what if they did? The learning process does not stop once they step out of their classrooms. It can also be enriched in the streets. And whatever their field of study, those students are aware of the rottenness of the present regime; and they have been itching to see Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's ouster from Malacañang.

No money is needed to mobilize those students or the people. They would gain far more once she's out of the picture. (Trust a member of the bourgeois class to value money over principles.) For GMA and her cohorts, there is nowhere to go but down.

GMA should just step down. Nobody believes her anymore, especially with the

rising incidence of human rights violations and the unabated killings of militant activists and journalists during her regime.

General asked: Where's the mass base? How can a rotten government, even with its few remaining military faithful, stop the growing mass unrest? It has been said that they can kill the revolutionary, but they can never kill the revolution.

And now comes the hogwash about the "new purge" within the Communist Party of the Philippines to explain the killing of militants. Doesn't this sound like a desperate attempt to cover up the President's campaign to rid this country of "terrorists" (read, "those who want to topple her government"), meaning militant-progressive mass organizations and party-list groups?

—ELAINE MONTESA,  
Science for Progress  
and Advancement of Country  
and Environment,  
UP Diliman, Quezon City

# Real Life Education through the Enrollment-to-Employment System

Beyond the walls of colleges and universities is a highly competitive world. Students need to be prepared for this through education. But education should never be confined to learning the solutions to mind-boggling equations or knowing which best skill to apply.

More than acting as a training ground for students, an educational institution should serve as a microcosm of the real world. This is because as students finish their degrees, they are up for tougher competition among other job hunters.

Opportunities for work come to those who are prepared for it. Employers find it difficult to look for competent graduates in the same manner that graduates find job opportunities extremely scarce.

A school should continue to reinvent itself to better prepare its students for the demands of the real world. Like STI, it introduced a new approach to human resource development which emphasizes the need to develop students in various aspects to give them a competitive edge when they graduate.

STI has developed a unique system called the Enrollment-to-Employment System (E2E System) which is a complete approach to human resource development. This system provides real life education and employment support to students when they graduate.



According to STI, its E2E system is comprised of four parts namely: Learning Systems Development, Academic Delivery System, Student Certification Program, and Job Placement Assistance Program. The four components put together attend to the student's needs from the time he enrolls at STI up to the time he applies for a job.

For instance, through the Learning Systems Development, students learn skills that companies are looking for. This is vital because companies are now more demanding of the quality of services and products they get.

Learning Systems Development goes hand in hand with STI's Academic Delivery System which makes sure that all students from STI's network of more than 100 schools get the same quality education from its pool of highly qualified faculty members.

Moving further, STI also assists students in going through assessment and Certification Programs through a partnership with Universal Worker, Inc., a training and review company that provides healthcare workers and other professionals with advanced skills to make them more competitive in the global market.

To complete its system is a component that gives employment support to students who have graduated or are about to graduate. Through STI's partnership with placement agency Global Resource for Outsourced Workers, Inc. or GROW, graduates are presented with various job opportunities.

Graduates are also linked to employers through regular job fairs and STI's online job matching system called I-CARES or the Interactive Career Assistance and Recruitment System. With I-CARES, STI graduates are linked to employers with just a click of a mouse.

There is no better reward for a student than to have a job after college. And there is no better reward for a school than to produce quality graduates that will soon contribute to the development of the nation.

For a school like STI, this is a mission it has accomplished and will continue to pursue.



## The Value of Perseverance

Ethel Babia would always describe her life as challenging rather than difficult.

She braved many hardships in the past from selling vegetables at a very young age in Tanny, Rural to becoming numerous job hopefuls.

Every step of the way, Ethel managed to excel. She consistently topped in academics while displaying unmatched leadership skills.

And as she displayed a strong and persevering character and proved to many her intelligence, Ethel met several people who helped her realize her dreams.

It was Dolly Cruz of STI College-EDSA-Crossing who helped Ethel take up BS Computer Science while working as a student assistant. She finished her degree with honors.

All these, she attributes to her continuous strive for excellence.

Now Ethel strives to do well as a professional working at Globe Telecom, Inc. as a Corporate Technical Specialist.



**Ethel Babia**  
Cum Laude, BS Computer Science  
STI Batch 2003

## The Quest For Excellence



## No illegal logging and floods in Camiguin

IN THE APRIL 23 TALK OF THE TOWN, THE article titled "Treasures of Camiguin" made us proud of our island. (Indeed, our island is still a paradise.)

But I was alarmed to read about the "widespread illegal logging" in our place. Another point that bothered me was the negative allusion that "nobody wants to go to a place where there are floods and droughts all the time, where there's just denuded mountains." For all we know, the article might have rubbed some sheen off the reputation that Camiguin Island has gained over the years.

I asked our Penro (provincial environment and natural resources officer) if the report was true. And I myself conducted an investigation. There is no illegal logging in Camiguin. Our province is still very rich in natural resources, and because it is small, it is easy for us to arrest those who violate the law.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Camiguin has issued a certification that there is no illegal logging in Camiguin.

We love our province and we are doing our best to conserve and preserve its natural resources for future generations.

Anyone may come to Camiguin and see for himself or herself if, indeed, "there are floods and droughts all the time" or "illegal logging is widespread" in Camiguin.

—PEDRO P. ROMUALDO,  
governor, Camiguin

What Prof. Lawrence Heaney said about illegal logging did not refer to the current situation on the island. The logging referred to in the story, as mentioned in the Fieldiana study, occurred in the 1980s and 1990s.

—KATE PEDROSO,  
PDI Research

## MRT is a great help

I UNDERSTAND THAT A RIDE ON THE METRO Rail Transit (MRT) train is getting to be stressful. (PDI, 5/9/06) But I'm writing to thank MRT Corp. and to suggest how it can make my ride less stressful.

To criticize is easy, but to give a compliment is hard. I commend the MRT for keeping its trains rolling. It had to borrow \$465 million in 1997 at the exchange rate of P26.50 to \$1. This loan must have ballooned since the peso has weakened against the dollar by around 100 percent. A firm made of lesser stuff would have crumbled. The MRT withstood this drawback. It still runs 17 hours a day. It hauled around 350,000 passengers a day in 2005.

But then there is no such thing as a free lunch. I am, therefore, willing to share the cost of maintaining the MRT's services. If the air-conditioning eventually conks out, then I'll just console myself with the thought that it is hotter in hell.

The writer's gripes must be the result of the fare cut in 2001. I find the present P9 50-P15 MRT fare cheap and the benefit I get from it is of much higher value. I suggest that MRT Corp. be given the freedom to set its fares based on a just market price. This freedom, however, should be used responsibly. The fare hike must be adequate to meet the MRT's reason for being.

—JOSE LEO LEMUEL  
G. CAPARAS JR.,  
Bingoydgoodboy@yahoo.com

## Suspect not with RISOO

THIS HAS REFERENCE TO THE NEWS report of Luigi del Puerto titled "5 cops face robbery raps" (PDI, 5/17/06).

We would like to clarify that PO1 Rhynjahe Salazar, one of the suspects named in the report, is no longer connected with the Regional Intelligence Special Operations Office (RISOO); he was reassigned to the Western Police District on July 29, 2002.

The RISOO, as a special operating and investigative unit of the NCRPO, makes sure that its members are of good moral character and have a record of good performance in the police service.

Rest assured that the NCRPO, under the leadership of Police Director Vidal Querol, will always respect the freedom of the press and promote stronger partnership between the media and the police.

—AGRIMERO A. CRUZ JR., CSBB,  
police senior superintendent and chief,  
Regional Police Community  
Relations Division/  
Public Information Division,  
Camp Bagong Diwa, Marikina, Taguig City



**NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU**  
Room 201, Bonuan Aparilla  
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City  
Tel. No. (074) 443-9235  
Fax No. (074) 443-9237  
E-mail: [lnq\\_baguio@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:lnq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph)

**SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU**  
2nd Floor, Los Baños Bldg.  
Cor. Pinaranda and Aguinaldo Sts.  
Laguna City  
Tel. No. (052) 480-4182  
E-mail: [lnq\\_blaos@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:lnq_blaos@inquirer.com.ph)

**Across the NATION**  
E-mail: [pr\\_provincial\\_news@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph)  
Text us your feedback: Inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

**CEBU DAILY NEWS**  
16-15 Escario St., Cebu City  
Tel. No. (032) 233-0340/233-0342  
Fax No. (032) 232-9936  
E-mail: [lnq\\_cebudo@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:lnq_cebudo@inquirer.com.ph)

**MINDANAO BUREAU**  
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.  
Mesa Road, Davao City  
Tel. No. (082) 244-1770 to 71  
Fax No. (082) 244-1771  
E-mail: [lnq\\_davao@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:lnq_davao@inquirer.com.ph)

# 'This is not the way of democracy'

By Marlon Ramos  
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

**CALAMBA CITY—THE FAMILY** of slain Bayan Muna leader Noel "Noli" Capulong yesterday challenged President Macapagal-Arroyo to show her authority and control as commander-in-chief of the police and the military by bringing to justice the killers of their loved one.

Lawyer Emilio Capulong, older brother of the victim, said the President should once and for all prove that she has control over the armed units of the government by putting a stop to the killings of activists who, he said, wanted nothing but to help the poor Filipinos.

"This is very tragic. I grieve not only for my brother but also for the tragic situation in the country," Emilio told the INQUIRER at the wake of his brother in Erapio Subdivision in Barangay Pob.acion Tres here.

"This is not the way of democracy. What is happening is contrary to the democratic way of life," he lamented.

Capulong, 51, was gunned down while he was maneuvering his vehicle on a vacant lot near a hospital in Barangay Parian at about 6:20 p.m., said Calamba police chief Supt. Roland Bustos.

He was the 135th activist killed in the region since Ms. Arroyo rose into power in 2001, said the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan-Southern Tagalog (Bayan-ST) in a statement.

He was also the fourth high-ranking leader of Bayan murdered in the last three years.

A bystander who saw the killing told police that the unidentified gunman wearing a bonnet alighted from a motorcycle and approached the victim while firing at him.

The killer then boarded the motorcycle and sped toward the city proper.

Capulong succumbed to four bullet wounds in the jaw, left side of the body, and chest.

Bustos said investigators were hopeful that they could produce an artist's sketch of the

killer as the bonnet did not cover his face. "Based on our initial investigation, the killing was planned. So we have to go deeper into our investigation," Bustos said.

## Military's role

Emilio said the government could not hide the fact that the prevalent perception of the public is that military personnel were behind the killings of political dissidents, like those belonging to Bayan and its allied organizations.

"Whether [the accusation that the military is behind the killings] is true or not, she has got to act and act decisively. She cannot just issue a denial. She is the commander-in-chief. That entails a lot of responsibility so that our safety as citizens can be maintained and protected," he lamented.

He added that although the government's insinuations that members of the Left themselves could be behind the killings might be possible, it was still the responsibility of the government to find out the truth about such allegations.

"The speculations should not end there. It's the government's role to go into it and find out the truth of what happened. If it cannot do it, this government is inutile," he said.

Doyette, the widow of Capulong, said

she could not think of anybody who would want her husband dead.

"He was very kind and helpful to others. He never had any enemies and was soft-spoken," the grieving widow said, adding: "I want justice for my husband. I want to know who his killers are and why they did this to him. Among kasalanan ng asawa ko?"

Doyette said her husband had filed a leave from Bayan to focus on organizing the "Boikot ng Bayan" project of Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo in the coastal community of Barangay Linga. The project was supposed to be inaugurated on May 31.

## Surveillance

Armand Albarillo, secretary general of Bayan-ST, said Capulong had just attended a meeting of residents who were being evicted from a contested property in Belarmuno Subdivision when he was killed.

He said the residents had sought their help in seeking a settlement with the owner of the property.

"Noli just wanted to know the situation of the residents there who are in danger in losing their homes. He was trying to find out how he could be of help to them," Albarillo said.

Emilio said that two weeks before the

killing, his brother had told him that he noticed unidentified men tailing him.

The Calabarzon police director on Sunday created a special task group to look into Capulong's killing.

Chief Supt. Prospero Noble offered P50,000 to anyone who could provide information that would lead to the identity and arrest of the suspects.

He appointed Bustos to head Task Force Capulong.

"We assure the family of Capulong that the PNP and the military will exert all efforts to solve this killing," Noble told the INQUIRER.

Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., chief of the military's Southern Luzon Command, condemned the killing and offered the assistance of the military in the investigation.

Capulong was the brother of retired Army Gen. Homer Capulong.

"We've offered our assistance before. I'm just reiterating it, especially now that the victim was a brother of a military officer," Cabuay explained.

He said he had ordered Brig. Gen. Roland Detabali, chief of the Army's 202nd Infantry Brigade, to coordinate with Noble in the investigation of all leftist killings.

With a report from Delfin Mallari Jr.,

PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

## INSIDE

**Iranian gov't to fund 5 hospitals in ARMM** /A18

**Lafayette asks Sorsogon court to dismiss case** /A19

**Firm to rehabilitate Toledo copper mine** /A20

**34 colleges to hike tuition in Caraga** /A21

## 5 dolphins beached in Dagupan village

**DAGUPAN CITY—**Five dolphins, one of them with bullet wounds, were found beached in the coastal village of Sabangan here on Saturday.

Westly Rosario, chief of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources research center here, said local residents found the beached dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) swimming in the waters at about 10 a.m. and reported the presence of the sea mammals to the city agriculture office.

Rosario said four dolphins returned to deeper waters while residents placed the wounded dolphin in a fish cage in the area.

BFAR personnel treated the dolphin before it was released to the sea.

But at about 5 p.m. that day, Rosario said members of the local maritime police brought a wounded dolphin to the BFAR research center for treatment.

"We were not sure if it was the same dolphin which we treated and brought back to the sea earlier that day," Rosario said.

He said the dolphin was already dehydrated when it reached the center. The dolphin died about an hour later.

In November 1997, 11 dolphins were found in the same village but only three of them were saved from slaughter by some residents.

Yolanda Sotelo-Puertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

**SHARP FAX MACHINE**  
The Smart Choice for Home and Office

**F0-71**  
445 lb out of paper memory  
Auto-cutter  
30 m. thermal roll  
40 auto dialer  
5-sheet Automatic Doc. Feeder  
15 sec. transmission  
84 level Half Tone

**With Free DT-651**

**PRP. 5,288.00**

Available at authorized dealers nationwide.

Distributed by **ASTECH PENGSON** D. SEP. BUENOS NC

MANILA BRANCH Tel. No. 534-63 61 to 59  
CEBU BRANCH Tel. No. (032) 344-1186  
DAVAO BRANCH Tel. No. (082) 221-0565

Promo Period April 17 - May 31, 2006  
For DB-NCR Permit No. D726 Series of 2006

**ULTI-ULTIMAX**  
Cutting process resulting from the BHM-J Technology

**4x** Quattro Effect  
• 4 cutting edges  
• 2 times more contact area  
• 2 times more effective  
• 2 times more life

**Hand Hacksaw Blade**

Also available  
Hole Saw  
Jigsaw Blade

**LAVERO High Pressure Washers**  
Efficiency, reliability, safety and ease of use - all these and more brought to you by the world's leader in manufacturing hi-tech cleaning system -

KD POWER COBRA KW LMX

**Aquatriton Water Purifier**

3 Functional Positions  
1) Tap water  
2) Purified water  
3) Cleaning

• Ultra purity with cleaning function.  
• Ultra dirt holding capacity.  
• 10 times higher than a conventional unit.  
• Ultra long life with high permeate flow.

**Patented Boltless Shelving**  
For warehousing, product showcasing, sales outlet requirements & home use. Easy to assemble and with adjustable shelving.

Storage Racks  
Simply Super Kit

Available sizes for Storage Racks:  
Height: 1578, 1640, 1972 & 2500 mm  
Length: 800, 900, 1200 & 1600 mm  
Depth: 300, 400, 500 & 600 mm

Available sizes for Simply Super Kit:  
1578mm (H) x 900mm (L) x 400mm (D)  
1640mm (H) x 900mm (L) x 400mm (D)

**Bonding Forever Double Coated Foam Tape**  
Sizes available: 12mm (1/2") x 33mm (3/4") x 33mm  
25mm (1") x 33mm

**Very Strong Bonding Strength**  
Applications: • Glass bonded to aluminum framework • Signboard & lettering attachments • Frames & exterior of electronics • Automotive exterior & interior

Characteristics: • Long-term bonding performance • Substitutes rivet, bolt and screw for better look of the product • Saves time and money • Easy to use

**Ladders & Scaffolding**

Scissors Platform  
Scissors A-frame Scaffolding ladder  
2-large multi-purpose telescopic ladder

**Dextera Corporation**  
157 Bpi E. Reyes St. Quizon City  
Tel. 382 1111 381 8006 Fax No. 382-0524  
email: [info@dextera.com](mailto:info@dextera.com)  
website: [www.dextera.com](http://www.dextera.com)

**MANSMITH AND FIELDS, INC.**  
Marketing and Sales Course Offerings

**WHAT'S YOUR BIG IDEA THIS YEAR?**  
LET THE EXPERTS OF MANSMITH AND FIELDS HELP YOUR MARKETING & SALES TEAMS SOAR WITH BIG IDEAS TO OUTFANK, OUTSELL & OUTMANUEVER COMPETITION!

**5th Managing a Successful Distributor Operation** June 01-02, 2006  
**42nd From Selling to Managing** June 07-08, 2006  
**1st Negotiation Strategies & Secrets** June 22-23, 2006  
**15th Marketing Implementation** June 27-28, 2006  
**64th Marketing Strategy & Plans** July 04-05, 2006  
**7th Sales Promotions Planning Essentials** July 11-12, 2006

Course Investment per seminar per participant:  
Early Bird Rate: P8,800 + 12% VAT (if paid two weeks before seminar date)  
Regular Rate: P9,800 + 12% VAT (if paid after early bird cut-off but before seminar week)  
Onsite Rate: P10,800 + 12% VAT (if paid during seminar week)

For complete 2006 schedule of seminars, course outlines, group discounts and other inquiries, please visit our website at [www.mansmith.net](http://www.mansmith.net), email us at [info@mansmith.net](mailto:info@mansmith.net) or call Alice Torres at telefax nos. (02) 722-2318 / 727-7142

**Specialist in marketing and sales training**  
• Unique money back warranty  
• Top management speakers  
• Experience plus framework  
• Advocacy-based company  
• Multi-awarded trainers

Only members of top management qualify as Mansmith speakers. Clockwise from left: Joaquin Go (Mansmith Chairman, Agoro/TOYM Awardee), Emilio Macasiet III (Former VP of RFM, now President of his own distribution company), Rowen Unthervo (Former Country Manager of Alcatel, now President of his own digital advertising company) and Chiqui Pascual-Go (Mansmith CEO).

**MANSMITH AND FIELDS, INC.**  
Helping your marketing and sales teams soar!

#14 Hang-Ilang St., GF Waters Center, New Manila, Quezon City 1112. Telefax Nos. (632) 722-2318 / 727-7142

Official Print Media Partners: **BusinessWorld** **INQUIRER**



# Iranian gov't to fund 5 hospitals in ARMM

By Charlie Señase  
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—THE IRANIAN government has approved "in principle" to fund a proposed project that involves the construction of five 50-bed hospitals in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Samson Gogo, ARMM information chief, said the project envisioned to put up one hospital for each of the five provinces in the region—Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Basilan—at a cost of over \$5 million.

Ambassador Jalal Kalantari of the Islamic Republic of Iran assured the ARMM government during his meeting with Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan in Makati City on Saturday that Iranian aid was forthcoming.

Gogo said the governor was optimistic that by 2007, five new hospi-

tals would augment the medical services of 24 government-run hospitals.

Efforts to tap foreign donor countries to help the impoverished ARMM have always been the practice of local leaders due to the national government's perennial budgetary problem.

## Government hospitals

"Of the 24 government hospitals in operation, only three could qualify as secondary hospitals, while the rest are mostly primary with both categories having a total bed capacity of 645," said ARMM Health Secretary Lampa Pandi.

Kalantari has expressed Iran's concern over struggling Muslim states and communities in the world, saying it has been the policy of his government to extend assistance to brothers in need like those

in the ARMM.

Ampatuan expressed gratitude to Iran and other "outside assistance" gird toward developing the autonomous region.

He cited the arrival next month of the US floating hospital, a huge Navy ship that would offer various health services.

Ampatuan said local leaders of Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Sulu were asked to coordinate with health officials in their areas to facilitate aiding constituents so that they could avail themselves of free surgical, medical and dental services that the American specialists would provide.

Pandi said the naval hospital, manned by nearly 700 personnel, would also perform immunization, deworming, veterinary services and program awareness on the possible entry of the avian influenza.



PATIENTS needing surgery board the USNS Mercy as Philippine Navy personnel from the Naval Special Operations Group provide tight security. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Sipalay police force sacked for negligence

By Carla P. Gomez  
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—THE ENTIRE POLICE FORCE in Sipalay City in Negros Occidental has been relieved after three inmates and two minor offenders bolted out of detention yesterday and brought with them two high-powered firearms.

The three inmates escaped from the police station in Sipalay, 178 km south of here, at about 1.15 a.m., with the help of the two minors who were under the custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Police investigation showed the two minors sawed off the padlock of the detention cell of the inmates.

The DSWD office is beside the police station on the ground floor of a building next to City Hall.

The minors, aged 16 and 17, went with the three inmates, identified as Stanely Laurente, 18, Mandy Marfil 19, and Rey Alquizar, 26. They brought with them two M-16 rifles with three magazines containing ammunition.

Laurente is facing murder charges while Marfil, and Alquizar are both charged with frustrated murder. One of the minors was facing charges of cattle rustling while the other was charged with theft.

Shortly after the escape, Negros Occidental police director Senior Supt. Charles Calima ordered the relief of Sipalay police chief Senior Insp. Bonifer Gotas and his 23 policemen.

They were ordered to undergo retraining in Hingaran town pending investigation of the escape of the detainees.

Calima designated Chief Insp. Jomil John Trio, provincial police intelligence chief, as acting head of the Sipalay police station.

The 23 policemen, on the other hand, were replaced by 30 policemen who had been undergoing Scout Ranger Orientation Course.

Calima said the relief of the Sipalay police force should send a strong message to all chiefs of police not to be lax in securing detainees in their jails.

Army soldiers in southern Negros had joined in the hunt for the escapees.

## 6 inmates escape from Cebu city jail

By Jhunnex Napaliacan  
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—SIX INMATES ESCAPED shortly before 4 a.m. on Friday at the city jail.

The escapees were Randy Rayala, 23, of Barangay Baniad; Randy Java, 23, of Barangay Pasil; Edgardo Batanes, 26, of Barangay Errum; Emeric Abediano, 25, and Garsol Gabuya, 22, both of Barangay Bulacao; and Cesar Seban, 20, of Barangay Pardo, all in this city.

Supt. Efrén Nemeño, Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center (BBRC) jail warden, said his men recaptured Java while boarding a jeep near JY Square Mall in Barangay Lahug, barely a kilometer from the facility.

"Our jail guards with the support of the policemen are conducting hot pursuit operations against the remaining five escapees," Nemeño said.

The escapees sneaked out of the old and dilapidated jail after punching a hole in the left side of the perimeter fence near the basketball area in front of Camp Lapu-Lapu, headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Central Command, Nemeño said.

The inmates pounded the fence with stones and a steel tube to make the hole.

The jailbreak was discovered by the guard-supervisor, JO2 Leo Labata, at 4 a.m.

Nemeño immediately relieved the two jail guards on duty—JO1 Victoriano Vence and JO1 Freddie Perez—who were assigned at Towers 2 and 3. They were the nearest to the hole created by the six prisoners.

Of the five remaining escapees, only Rayala has been convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.

# Ready 4 School

# SALE

## June 2 - 4

Great Deals! Great Savings!

Water Container

NOW  
P110 only



REG  
P149 only

\*w/ 300 worth purchase

Fold-A-Mat

NOW  
P400 only

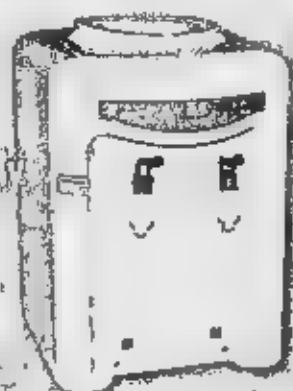


REG  
P499 only

up to  
**50% off**

Water Dispenser

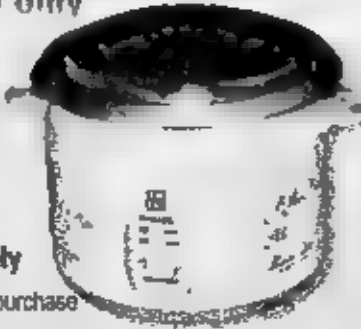
NOW  
P500 only



REG  
P899 only

Camel Rice Cooker

NOW  
P550 only



REG  
P709 only

\*w/ 1,000 worth purchase

**METRO**  
G · A · I · S · A · N · O

@ Market! Market!  
Fort Bonifacio, Global City

Per DTI - NCR Permit No. A2-241 Series of 2006

DEPARTMENT STORE & SUPERMARKET



# Lafayette asks Sorsogon court to dismiss case

SORSOGON CITY—THE AUSTRALIAN firm Lafayette Mining Co. has asked the regional trial court here to dismiss a civil case filed against it by more than 2,000 fishermen, citing technical defects in the complaint.

Lawyer Cleofe Verzola, the firm's counsel, filed the motion to dismiss Civil Case No. 2006-7639, saying it lacked a certification of non-forum shopping from the complainants as required under the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure.

The case was filed early this year by lawyer Gl. Gojo, representing the fishermen from the municipal ties hard hit by the fish scare that gripped the province after the mine spills at the Lafayette mine site on Rapu-Rapu Island in Albay.

The complainants have blamed the mining firm for the loss of income they suffered after consumers stopped buying fish, particularly those coming from the towns of Prieto-Diaz, Gubat, Barcelona and Bulusan, and Bacon district in Sorsogon City, for

fear that they were contaminated.

The fishermen were seeking P100 each per day reckoned from October 2005 for lost income, P100,000 per individual for moral damages, P100 million for exemplary damages, P1 million as technical assistance fund, and 25 per cent of total recovered amount as attorney's fee.

The counsel for the fishermen said the power of attorney granted to him by the complainants covered the issuance of a certificate of non-forum shopping and that its absence in the complaint was a mere "apose of the pen."

Lafayette argued otherwise, saying the certification must come from the complainants themselves.

Gojo stressed that "the highest interest of substantial justice must not be sacrificed" on a mere technicality.

Judge Honesto Villamor of RTC Branch 52 said he had yet to set the date for the hearing of the civil case.

**Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

## Now, In Our New, Bigger Campus\*



40W Sucat Road,  
Halfway between SLEX & Ninoy Aquino Ave.  
Beside Filinvest Classic Estate

## FLY High With

# PATTS

## College of Aeronautics

Lombos Avenue, San Isidro, Parañaque City  
Tel. 825 - 8823 Fax 825 - 8824

Email: [admin@patts.edu.ph](mailto:admin@patts.edu.ph)  
Website: [www.patts.edu.ph](http://www.patts.edu.ph)

### Courses Offered:

**B.S. Aeronautical Engineering - 5 yrs.**  
**B.S. Air Transportation**  
**B.S. Aircraft Maintenance Technology**  
**B.S. Avionics Technology**  
**B.S. Airline Business Administration**  
**B.S. Tourism**  
**B.S. Airline Office Administration**  
**B.S. Hotel and Restaurant Management** \*NEW COURSE offering  
**Aircraft Technician Course - 2 yrs.**

\*Computer subjects integrated in all courses

## YOUR FUTURE IS IN THE SKIES

### ROUNDUP

#### Illegal loggers warned

SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur—The days are numbered for provincial government workers believed to be in cahoots with illegal loggers. Forester Danilo Sarong, chief of the Provincial Task Force on Natural Resources Protection and Utilization, aired this warning after receiving reports that some government workers were involved in transporting hot logs out of the province. He said his office would enforce the full force of the law following an executive order issued by Gov. Adolpho Edvard Plaza to address the rampant illegal logging activities in the province. He said the task force had confiscated P1.2 million worth of illegally cut logs from Prosperidad, Bayugan, Esperanza and Sibagat.

**Chris Panyanban, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

#### Assassination plot

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—An assassination plot against Mayor George Yabes of Maitum, Sarangani was foiled following the arrest of the suspected gunman on Thursday. Sarangani police chief Senior Supt. Efrén Valeriano identified the arrested suspect as Belino Sumadang, 21, of Kalamansig town in Sultan Kudarat. Valeriano said Sumadang was about to enter the Maitum town gym at past 7 p.m. Thursday when policemen frisked him. Seized from him was a loaded bullet magazine of a 45 cal. pistol and a letter addressed to Yabes. "We were glad that Sumadang was arrested because we were able to preempt their plan against the mayor," Valeriano said. He said that during interrogation, Sumadang identified several people involved in the plot. Valeriano did not name the other suspects.

**Aquiles Zamia, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

#### Gang member nabbed

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—The Special Operations Group (SOG) of the Laguna police arrested a suspected member of the notorious Valle Verde car theft syndicate in San Pablo City on Saturday morning. Police said Robert John Aglipay, 28, of Jewell Town Subdivision, Barangay San Rafael, San Pablo, was among the few remaining members of the gang, composed mostly of young men belonging to affluent families in Metro Manila. Recovered from the suspect's house were a 9-mm Glock pistol, 16 magazines for an M16 rifle, a blue camouflage uniform similar to those used by policemen, a bonnet and other ammunitions. Also found in Aglipay's lair were two reported stolen vehicles—a white Honda CRV (XSY 607) and a silver Toyota Vios (ZBT 542). The suspect also faces charges of illegal possession of firearms and ammunitions.

**Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

#### Tourism bill questioned

BATANGAS CITY—The provincial board unanimously approved Thursday a resolution to question certain provisions of the Tourism Act of 2006 or Senate Bill 2138. Under Section 35 of the bill sponsored by Senator Richard Gordon, tourism-related enterprises are required to get accreditation from the Department of Tourism in matters of quality of facilities and services offered. Those who fail to meet the standards are subject to cancellation of licenses to operate. The bill also subjects local government executives who fail to act under the provisions to fines and suspension of services from the DOT. The board members said the bill's provisions are contrary to promoting tourism through local autonomy. It would otherwise be more effective and ideal to leave the accreditation of hotels and other related enterprises to private tour operations and organizations to prevent red tape and corruption, they said.

**Marlon Alexander Luistro, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

#### Lightning kills 3

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Three fishermen were killed when they were hit by lightning in a small coastal village in Lemery, Batangas on Thursday. Police said Zaldy Sarabia, 46, his brother Elizeo, 36, and neighbor Apollo Gamboa, 33—all residents of Barangay Wawa, Batangas City—died instantly after suffering third degree burns all over their bodies. Versoza said the three, with their fishing gears, were about to leave Barangay Balanga in Lemery on board their small fishing boat when residents heard an ear-splitting sound at about 7:30 p.m. He said when the residents looked at where the sound came from, they saw the victims' charred bodies sprawled on the shore. Versoza noted that although it was raining intermittently that night, the local Coast Guard did not bar small fishing boats from leaving as no thunderstorm was reported in the region.

**Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE INFINITE

# FUJITSU

## Classic

LifeBook iK



C series

Fujitsu recommends Windows® XP Professional.

LifeBook C1321

Intel® Centrino® Mobile Technology  
Intel® Pentium® M Processor 740  
(1.73GHz, 2MB L2 cache, 533MHz FSB)  
Intel® PRO/Wireless 2200BG Network Connection  
Intel® 915GM Chipset  
Windows® XP Home Edition  
256MB DDR2 533MHz  
40GB  
15.4" SuperFine Wide XGA TFT  
Dual Layer DVD Super Multi Writer  
56K V.92 Modem 1000/100/10Mbps Fast Ethernet  
USB2.0, S-Video Out, IEEE1394  
ExpressCard 34/54, PC Card Type II, SD Card  
Norman Virus Control and Norman Personal Firewall

Powered by the next-generation Intel® Centrino® Mobile Technology  
**LIFEBOOK Built-In Confidence**

Fujitsu Philippines, Inc. (FPI)

Customer Careline: +63 (2) 841-8488

Sales Hotline: +63 (2) 864-8867

For pricing and availability please visit:

<http://www.fujitsu.com.ph/services/computing/lifebook.asp>

Selected Models

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC

Asus Eee PC



## CENTRAL COLLEGES OF THE PHILIPPINES COLLEGE OF NURSING



**The Largest and Best Equipped Nursing Skills  
Laboratory in the Country**

Tel. 715-3777 / 715-5170 / 715-0849  
52 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City  
[www.ccp.edu.ph](http://www.ccp.edu.ph)



**Now Offering 7 Months Caregiver Course**

## Firm to rehabilitate Toledo copper mine

By Irene R. Sino-Cruz  
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—ATLAS CONSOLIDATED MINING and Development Corp. (ACMDC) will soon implement the \$160-million rehabilitation of its copper mine in Toledo City.

ACMDC executive vice president and chief financial officer Martin Buckingham said the project would take 12-15 months from the start of de-watering of the Carmen pit.

Buckingham said the draining of the flooded underground mine would take 4-6 months, with cost projected to reach \$3 million.

He said the company was still canvassing prices of the equipment to be used in the de-watering.

The reopening of the copper mine, scheduled in 2007, is expected to pour in economic and social benefits into Toledo.

During a simple ceremony held on Wednesday, ACMDC president and chair Alfredo Ramos turned over to Mayor Arlene Espinosa-Zambo one million shares of stocks worth P8 million (present market value) and a check worth P1 million, representing the balance of the cash component of the company's real estate taxes payable to the city government.

Zambo said the company and the city government earlier reached a compromise agreement, which reduced ACMDC's payables from P280 million to P100 million. Of the P100 million, P10 million is in cash while the balance is in the form of shares of stocks and some of Atlas' properties, Ramos said.

The company will also start paying the retirement benefits of its legitimate employees as soon as Atlas comes up with the mechanics, he added.

ACMDC assistant vice president and resident manager Rodrigo Cal said the company had to pay close to P101 million, the balance of the original P250 million owed to its employees.

Zambo said the company were excited at the reopening of the mine site as it would again revive the city's economy.

The company has entered into an agreement with Crescent Asian Special Opportunities Portfolio (Casop) for a financing package worth \$40 million.

Casop will initially infuse \$33 million into Carmen Copper Corp., a full Atlas subsidiary, which will rehabilitate the copper mine.

The infusion will be made in two tranches: A \$5 million convertible bond upfront and a \$28 million subscription for new shares upon the finalization of a senior debt instrument and off-take agreement for the copper project.

Proceeds from the convertible bond will be used to finance the draining of the underground mine.

Ramos said the company was working on possible ways to start copper production earlier, instead of at the end of the mine rehabilitation.

Buckingham said the company wanted to generate earnings while the price of copper in the world market was at an all-time high.

An earlier start in mining operations will help the company raise part of the funds for rehabilitation while the balance will come from outside sources, he said.

Open-pit production at Toledo started in 1955 at 4,000 tons daily and reached 110,000 tons daily by 1977, making it the fifth largest in the world.

After the rehabilitation is completed, Atlas' daily output is estimated at 42,000 tons, according to Cal.

Buckingham said the mine's resources could last up to 40 years or more. "There is potential for a longer operation," he added.

According to the company, the reopening of the copper mine would result in exports of up to \$3 billion over 12 years.

In addition, the company, upon full operation, will be employing a total of 3,000 workers.

## Tourism body urges Sorsogon natives to revisit province

THE SORSOGON PROVINCIAL TOURISM Council (SPTC) has urged natives of Sorsogon to revisit the province, which, it said, offers a lot of places for vacationers.

On June 28, the council, headed by Loida Nicolas Lewis, will hold its second Mrs. Balik-Sorsogon and Mrs. Balik-Bicol pageant in time for Sorsogon City's Pili Festival on June 130.

The pageant is a fund-raising campaign under the Balik Sorsogon/Balik Bicol 2006 program that seeks to establish the Sorsogon Provincial Museum and Heritage Center, according to a news release.

Mrs. Balik Sorsogon candidates are those living abroad while candidates for Mrs. Balik Bicol are those in the Philippines but residing outside the province.

Through the affair, Sorsogon folk and friends are enjoined to help, share and experience the warmth and hospitality of their province-mates and renew ties with old friends and relatives while enjoying the food, beaches and natural beauty of Sorsogon.

Balik-Sorsogonians and friends are also urged to experience what the province can offer, such as interaction with whale sharks or *butanding* in Donsol, seeing the manta rays near Buayan, and swimming in beaches of black, white and golden sands.

Food lovers can also savor the province's cuisine and delicacies, like the *pinangat*, spicy Bicol Express, *baluko*, freshly caught fish from the Pacific and China seas, fat crabs, and *puhi*.

Trekking can climb numerous mountains, while swimmers can see the province's waterfalls and cool or hot pools, such as the Twin Falls of Botong, Pangrok of Bulusan, Urok of Casiguran, and the Masacrot Spring and San Benon of Irosan.

Other places to visit are the isles of Tiding and Subic of Matnog, the hidden coves of Sta. Magdalena, the seaworld of Pilar and Prieto Diaz, and the protected Buayan, called the Switzerland of the Orient.

The old Church of Barcelona, the old houses of Juban, and the archeological diggings in Pilar, Magailanes also beckon history lovers, the news release said. Details about the province can be read at [www.baliksorsogon.org](http://www.baliksorsogon.org).

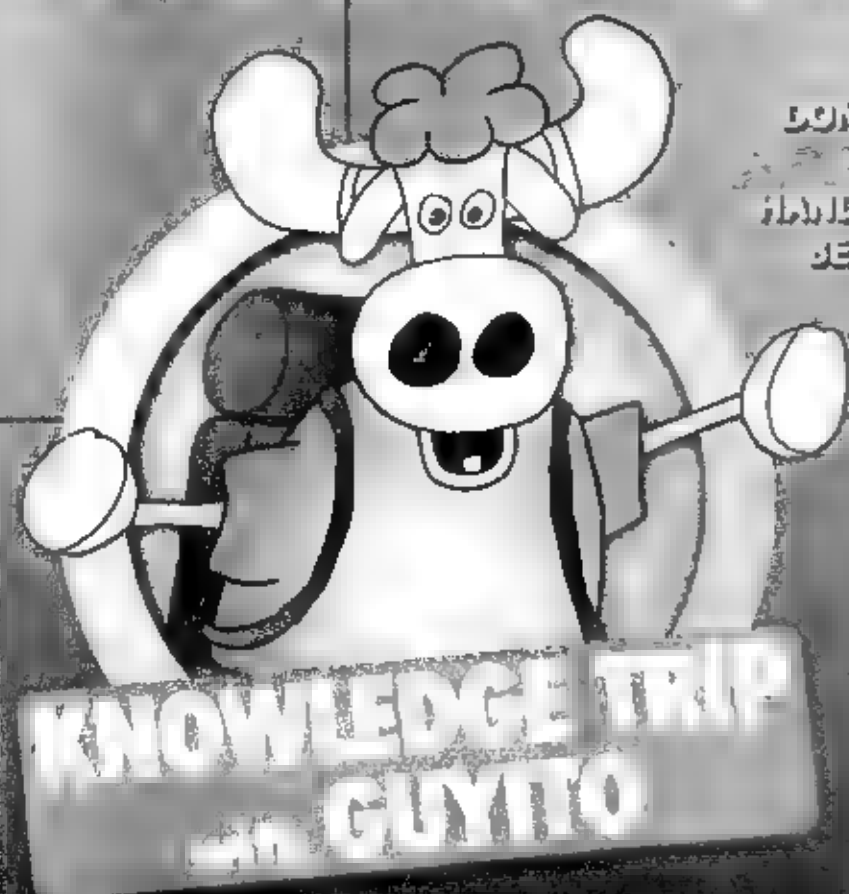


MINIATURE ORBETARDI SOL, THE PDI VISAYAS BUREAU  
BUTANDING or whale shark replicas are for sale in Donsol, Sorsogon.

# FREE ENTRANCE!

# INQUIRER

DON'T MISS YOUR FIRST AND LAST TIME TO SEE THE  
LIFE-SIZE SCULPTURED GUYITO CARABAO,  
HAND-PAINTED BY RENOWNED ARTISTS LIKE MALANG,  
BERCAB AND KIDLAT TAYMIRIK, AMONG OTHERS.



**MAY 30, 31 & JUNE 1**

**MALL OF ASIA**  
Visayas Area

MUSIC HALL

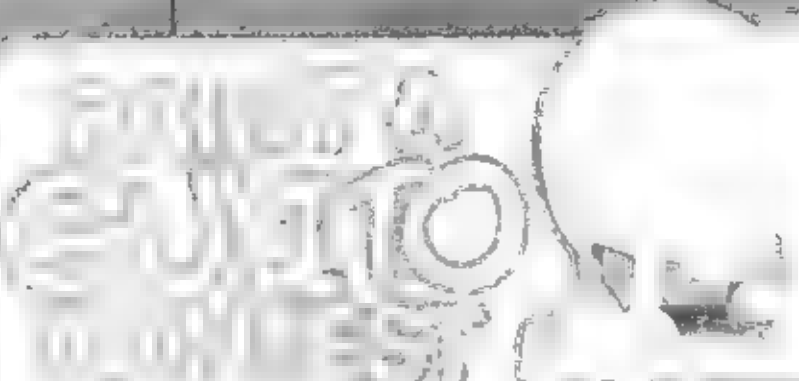
**JUNE 9, 10 & 11**

**Place**

FOUNTAIN AREA

Kellogg's

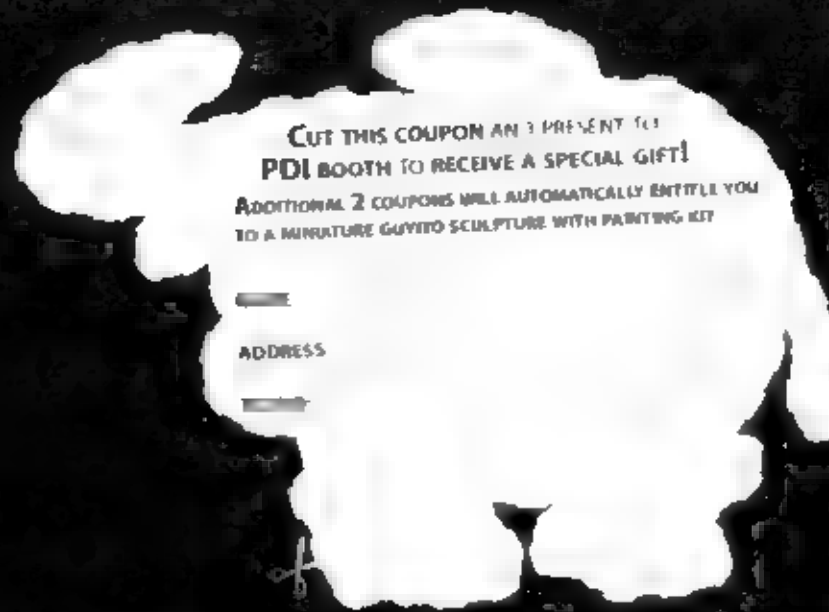
Chuckie



Get a chance to paint your own miniature Guyito masterpiece and enter it in our "Paint a Guyito Contest." Winners will be featured in the Junior Inquirer Magazine.

#### Mechanics

1. Register at the PDI booth
2. Surrender 3 cut-out coupons to get your free miniature Guyito with painting kit OR you can purchase it for only P50.
3. Paint the miniature Guyito
4. Submit your entry to PDI representatives



CUT THIS COUPON AND PRESENT TO  
PDI BOOTH TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL GIFT!

ADDITIONAL 2 COUPONS WILL AUTOMATICALLY ENTITLE YOU  
TO A MINATURE GUYITO SCULPTURE WITH PAINTING KIT

ADDRESS



**READY FOR CLASS OPENING**

Children, accompanied by their parents, shop for school supplies in Davao City in preparation for the start of classes in June.

BING GONZALES/PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

## 34 colleges in Caraga to increase tuition

BUTUAN CITY—THIRTY-FOUR COLLEGES in Caraga will raise tuition by at least 7.6 percent this school year, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) here said.

Dr. Lorenza Gonzales, education supervisor of the CHED-Caraga, disclosed that of the 53 colleges in the four-province region, 34 had been allowed to raise tuition.

Gonzales said the approved 7.6-percent increase was based on current inflation rate set by the national government.

Among those given the go-signal by the commission are Unios College, Agusan Colleges, Butuan City Colleges, Caraga Institute of Technology and Saint Theresa's College in

Tandag, Surigao del Sur.

Gonzales brushed aside criticisms that the approval came "without the benefit of consultation" between leaders of concerned students' government and the school administration.

"Based on the guidelines imposed by the CHED national office, only those seeking increases beyond 7.6 percent will have to undergo such consultation," Gonzales said.

She, however, said the agency still had to monitor if the proceeds from the tuition increases went to their intended school programs.

Under the CHED memorandum, 70 percent of the increase should go to salaries and benefits

of faculty members, 20 percent to school development, and 10 percent to the upgrading of textbooks and other information materials.

Schools found violating the policy would face sanctions ranging from revocation of permit, recommendation for downgrading of various school standards accreditations and possible closure, Gonzales said.

"We are now tasked with looking and monitoring how the money collected from such increases will be spent, and we have a task force [to implement] that," Gonzales added.

Franklin Caliguad, PDI Mindanao Bureau

## More programs, services for kids urged in Visayas

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.  
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—CHILD LABORERS in the Visayas are calling on the government to implement more children-oriented programs and services to stem the growing number of children who are forced to work.

In a statement issued at the culmination of the First Visayas-Wide Children's Congress on Tuesday, 142 child laborers urged the government to provide more access to education, alternative livelihood programs for their parents and stricter implementation of laws on children.

These were among the 14 recommendations drafted by the children during the three-day meeting organized by the Pag-Aaral ng mga Batang sa Kinabukasan (ABK) Initiative.

The ABK Initiative is a four-year project (2003-07) funded by the US Department of Labor and implemented by the National Coalition of Children's Participation.

The children, aged 10-16 years old, joined workshops and cultural programs to share their work experiences in Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Cebu and Iloilo.

"As poverty in our country worsens, the number of child laborers is increasing. Many of us are among those subjected to the worst forms of child labor," the children said in their statement in Filipino.

The children said many of their fellow children were forced to sell their bodies to stave off hunger.

"We have observed that the government cannot fulfill its obligation to care for our rights and welfare as children," they said.

**Unenforced laws**

Laws that were supposed to protect their rights and punished those who abused them were not being implemented, they said.

The Visayas has among the highest number of child laborers in the country. Around 388,000 in Central Visayas and 349,000 in Eastern Visayas.

The two regions are next only to Southern Tagalog, which has the most number of child laborers at 461,000, according to the 2000 survey of the International Labor Organization and the National Statistics Office.

Western Visayas has around 329,000 child laborers, according to the Department of Labor and Employment.

Among those who are working at a young age is 14-year-old Revenue Jane Dequito, of Ajuy, Iloilo.

Dequito has been helping her mother sell shrimp paste at the neighboring town of Sara since she was 9 years old.

She spends her Saturdays at their stall in the town market from 5 to 11 a.m. She is given P20, which serves as her school allowance.

"It is hard at times but I have to help my family," Dequito told the INQUIRER.

The worst forms of child labor exist in sugarcane plantations, pyrotechnic production, mining and quarrying, deep-sea fishing, commercial and sexual exploitation and domestic work, according to an ABK Initiative information sheet.

**Protection councils**

The children recommended the organization and activation of Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children (BCPCs).

The BCPC, headed by the barangay chair, is mandated to plan programs and activities for children. It has counterparts on the municipal, city and provincial levels.

But many of the BCPCs do not function, said Joy Valla of the Department of the Interior and Local Government in Western Visayas. Valla said that of the 4,049 barangays in Western Visayas, only 336 or 8 percent have functional BCPCs.

"Many officials do not see the importance of the (BCPCs) because they believe that children do not need specific programs because they also benefit from other programs of the barangay," Valla told the INQUIRER.

Bacolod City Councilor Jocelle Batapag-Sigue said many politicians "trivialized" issues dealing with children.

Sigue said a widespread campaign should be launched to disseminate provisions of Republic Act No. 9231 or the "Special Protection of Children against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act."

"This is a relatively new law and the public should know that they could be jailed if they subject children to child labor," said Sigue.

## WHY WE WANT A UNICAMERAL PARLIAMENT

So that the Filipino people will not be misled and misinformed, here is what we mean when we say: **ABOLISH THE SENATE and the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.**

Since July 2004 when the 13th Congress was inaugurated, here is the score from the

congressional ledger: **51 bills of national application and 708 bills of local application already approved on third reading by the House of Representatives have been gathering dust for months in the Senate.**

The list of bills is too long to fit this space. We've collated most of the 51 national bills, majority of which are urgent reform measures, because they may never see the light of day in the Senate.

**The Senate's inaction is an absolute waste of people's money. Just one law enacted by the Senate and the House of Representative costs the government almost P700 million in taxpayers money.\*\***

**The Senate's conduct leads to one inescapable conclusion:  
It's time to shift the country to a parliamentary government  
and a unicameral (one-house) parliament!**

\*\* Source: Manila Standard Today

### Bills of National Application Long Approved by the House and Pending in the Senate As of April 25, 2006

Bill No.	Short Title	Transmitted to the Senate	Bill No.	Short Title	Transmitted to the Senate
HB04710	General Appropriations Act of 2006	3/21/06	HB03370	Creating the Office of the Comptroller of the AFP	4/6/06
HB04839	Anti-Terrorism Act of 2005	1/24/06	HB01562	Amending RA 340, as Amended, which Established a Uniform Retirement System for the AFP	4/6/06
HB04629	Bioethanol Fuel Act of 2005	8/24/05	HB04846	The Land Administration Reform Act of 2005	11/29/05
HB03295	The Investments Incentives Code of the Philippines	12/15/04	HB03309	Frontline Service Information Act of 2004	3/9/05
HB03740	Amending RA No. 8178 by Extending the Utilization Period of Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund	3/8/05	HB00068	Prohibiting the Detention of Live or Dead Patients in Hospitals and Medical Clinics for Non-payment of Hospital Bills or Medical Expenses	5/25/05
HB04069	Anti-Smuggling Act of 2005	5/24/05	HB04602	Philippine Cooperative Code of 2005	10/12/05
HB02933	Granting a One-Time Tax Amnesty on all Unpaid National Internal Revenue Taxes for Taxable Year 2003 and Prior Years	12/15/04	HB04835	Amending RA 53, As amended, by including Within Its Coverage Journalists from Broadcast, News Agencies and Internet Publications	11/29/05
HB04264	Omnibus Housing and Urban Development Act	10/12/05	<b>Senate Bills pending in the House of Representatives:</b>		
HB04275	Ensuring Objectivity and the Protection of Witnesses in the Prosecution of Cases by the Ombudsman, Allowing Private Lawyers to Act as Prosecutors on his behalf	6/1/05	SB1967	An Act Redefining The Term "Veteran" Thereby Amending Further Republic Act No. 6948, as Amended	
HB03835	Socialized and Low-Cost Housing Loan Restructuring Act of 2005	3/16/05	SB2027	An Act Declaring the Month of February of Every Year as Liver and Hepatitis-B Awareness Month	
HB04081	Billion Trees Act of 2005	7/1/05			
HB05008	The University of the Philippines Charter of 2005	7/7/05			



**Ang Sigaw ng Bayan:  
Yes! to People's Initiative**

Visit our websites: [www.sigawngbayan.com](http://www.sigawngbayan.com) • [www.sigawngbayan.net](http://www.sigawngbayan.net) • [www.sigawngbayan.org](http://www.sigawngbayan.org)



# GMA, world leaders send rescuers, pledge relief aid

THE PHILIPPINES YESTERDAY JOINED countries around the world in scrambling to get food and supplies into Indonesian towns and cities pounded by rubble by an earthquake that left thousands dead or homeless.

President Macapagal-Arroyo expressed sorrow over the deaths and devastation wrought by the Indonesian earthquake and ordered a humanitarian mission to be deployed there.

"On behalf of the Filipino people, I extend our sympathies to the people of Indonesia who have once more suffered great loss and pain in the face of this tragedy. We are deeply saddened," Ms Arroyo said.

She said a humanitarian mission would be organized and deployed to the quake-ravaged regions soon. The Philippines sent a group of doctors and civic workers to Indonesia when it was devastated by an earthquake and tsunami in 2004.

"We are now arranging that (humanitarian mission). It will probably be just medical personnel, no military personnel," said Glenn Rabonza, executive director of the National Disaster Coordinating Council.

Rabonza said the NDOC would coordinate with the Department of Health and the Department of Social Welfare and Development in organizing the humanitarian mission. "They will leave as soon as possible," he said.

Ms Arroyo said the international community should help Indonesia, in the same way foreign governments assisted the Philippines following the deadly landslide in Southern Leyte early this year.

"We have a duty to help our neighbors as well as the whole of humanity in times like these, just as the world came to our succor in the Saint Bernard landslide," she said.

## Global community

According to her, the Department of Foreign Affairs is also checking if there were Filipinos among the quake victims so assistance could be extended them.

As photos and footage emerged of stunned, anguished survivors limping

through crumbled buildings, the global community immediately offered millions of dollars, tons of supplies and hundreds of trained personnel.

South Korea on Sunday rushed in 19 doctors and rescuers, and \$100,000 worth of emergency medical gear, the foreign ministry said.

Over the weekend, Malaysia sent about 300 disaster relief experts, five doctors, several paramedics and a ton of food, blankets and other essentials.

Australia's Foreign Minister Alexander Downer offered A\$3 million (\$2.27 million) for emergency food, shelter and medical supplies. He said assessment teams would study whether more was needed.

"We are looking at what we can do to help," Downer said on television. "It may be that we'll have to do quite a lot."

Japan was preparing to send relief goods and financial aid. Tokyo had already sent a team of seven doctors and nurses, the foreign ministry said.

Separately, the Japanese Red Cross Society said it had decided to contribute 100 million yen (\$896,000) in emergency disaster relief.

China's President Hu Jintao offered \$2 million and said Beijing would send rescue personnel and materials as needed, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Singapore said it was sending a 35-member medical team, 43 disaster and rescue workers, and three search dogs. It has also pledged \$50,000 worth of emergency supplies.

Thailand's foreign ministry said it planned to send aid and was set to decide on the details on Monday.

## Red Cross

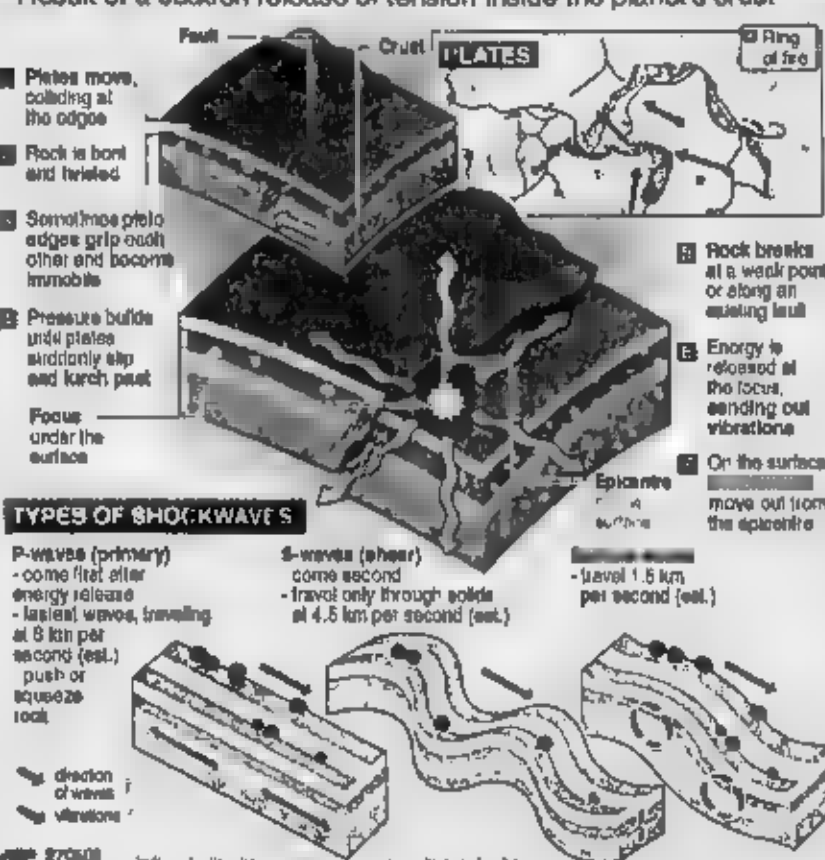
New Zealand's Prime Minister Helen Clark pledged NZ\$500,000 (\$316,500) and said her country would give more if needed.

The Asian Development Bank assured Indonesia's government "of ADB's fullest support and cooperation in rebuilding lives affected by the devastating earthquake."

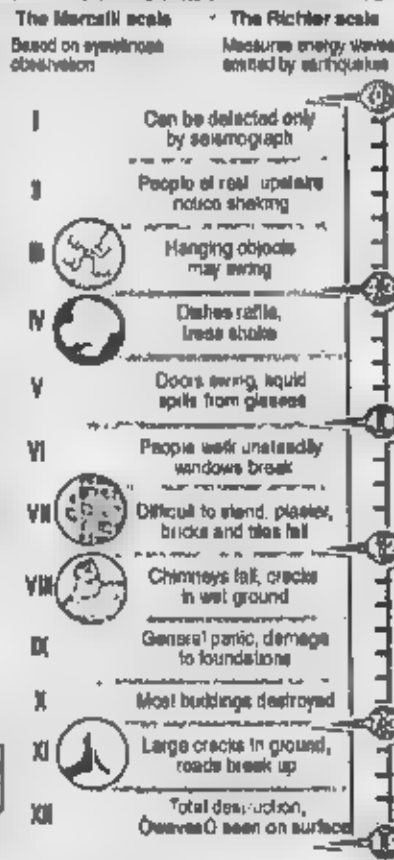
Outside Asia, the Red Cross appealed for 12 million Swiss francs (\$9.8 million) for survivors.

## How earthquakes happen

Result of a sudden release of tension inside the planet's crust



## MEASURING EARTHQUAKE



The Indonesian Red Cross, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, immediately mobilized more than 400 volunteers and staff, the Geneva-based federation said in a statement.

It said its experts in the quake zone said about 200,000 people have been left homeless.

In Java's Bantul city, "70 to 80 percent of homes and buildings were damaged or destroyed, while electricity and water services have also been affected throughout the region," said Arnuliv Torbjornsen, head of the federation's delegation in Jakarta.

"Aftershocks are continuing to shake the city, and many people remain trapped under buildings and rubble."

The Rome-based UN World Food Program said that a UN plane with medicine and medical personnel was set to arrive on Sunday, and that eight truckloads of food were on their way with fortified noodles and biscuits.

The UN children's agency Unicef said it was

**'We have a duty to help our neighbors as well as the whole of humanity in times like these'**

ready to send in tents, hygiene kits, health kits and school supplies.

"So often in natural disasters children and the elderly suffer disproportionately because they are least able to react quickly," said Unicef Executive Director Ann Veneman.

The European Union has granted up to euro3 million (\$3.8 million) in emergency aid.

Italian Foreign Minister Massimo D'Alema ordered a plane load of 27 tons of tents, blankets, cooking kits, plastic sheeting, generators, pumps and water purification equipment.

Switzerland said it would send two experts and donate \$100,000 to the Indonesian Red Cross.

The Italian Bishops Conference of the Catholic Church, saying it was heeding the Pope's appeal to help Java, said it was allocating euro2 million (more than \$2.5 million).

Leaders in Britain, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Pakistan and Spain also offered to help. Reports from Christine O. Avenadario, Dona Passibugan and AP

## Her last words were 'Daddy, Daddy'

From page A1

Tens of thousands of people spent Saturday night sleeping in any open space available—on streets, in cassava fields, even on the narrow paths between rice fields. Power and telephone service was out across much of the region, adding to the terror of aftershocks.

About 450 aftershocks had shaken the region as of Sunday noon, with the strongest measuring magnitude 5.2, said Handi, an official at the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency. Many Indonesians use only one name.

Survivors searched the ruins of their homes on Sunday for anything still usable and complained that they hadn't received any aid. International agencies and other nations pledged millions of dollars of aid. (See story on this page)

"We're short of everything—clothes, food, water, all are gone. We are poor people, but our lives still matter," said Budi Wiyana, 63, whose house was destroyed.

Doctors struggled to care for the injured, hundreds of whom were lying on plastic sheets, straw mats and even newspapers outside overcrowded hospitals, some hooked to intravenous drips dangling from trees.

Bloodstains littered the floor at Yogyakarta's Dr. Sardjito Hospital, along with piles of soiled bandages and used medical supplies.

Relatives fanned victims in the heat in temporary shelters set up in the parking lot and corridors.

## 'Too many patients'

"We have too many patients and they're still arriving," said Ari, a doctor, adding that the hospital had received more than 2,000 patients.

Though some corpses were pulled from the rubble early Sunday, residents in villages visited by reporters said there were few people or bodies trapped beneath collapsed houses, mostly simple brick and wood structures.

But in Peni, a small village on Bantul's southern outskirts, 20 residents were not ready to give up. They found the bodies of a woman and her three children on Saturday. The residents were still trying to find the family's father, Purwoko.

Most of the dead were buried in village graveyards within hours of the disaster, in line with Islamic tradition.

In Peni, villagers set up simple clinics to treat injuries, but they were hampered by shortages of medicine and equipment. A group of women cooked catfish caught in a nearby pond for dozens of people huddled under a large tent.

The earthquake hit at 5:54 a.m., caving in tile roofs and sending walls crashing down. Survivors screamed as they ran from their homes, some clutching bloodied children and the elderly.

## Series of disasters

The temblor was the latest in a series of disasters to hit Indonesia—including the 2004 tsunami that ravaged Aceh province, terrorist attacks, a widening bird flu outbreak and the threat of eruption from nearby Mount Merapi.

The quake's epicenter was 80 km south of the Merapi volcano, and activity increased soon after the temblor. A large burst spewed hot clouds and sent debris cascading some 3.5 km down its western flank. No one was injured because nearby residents had already been evacuated.

Bambang Dwiyanto of the energy and minerals ministry could not say whether the quake caused the volcanic activity but he warned that it could trigger a larger eruption.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago, is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin. It has the largest number of volcanoes in the world—76.

Bantul is about 2,230 km southeast of Aceh province, where 131,000 people died in a December 2004 tsunami that was triggered by a magnitude-9.1 earthquake under the sea.

At least 4,332 people were killed in the quake, according to an official in the affected areas. The social ministry said around 4,600 died, but numbers in one of the hardest hit districts were disputed.

Another 200,000 people were left homeless, according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent.

## Temple damaged

Officials said the famed 7th century Borobudur Buddhist temple, one of Indonesia's most popular tourist attractions, was not affected by the quake. But Prambanan, a spectacular Hindu temple to the southeast, suffered serious damage, with hundreds of stone carvings and blocks scattered around the ancient site.

The Hindu temple will be closed to the public until archeologists are able to determine whether the foundation was damaged, said Agus Waluyo, head of the Yogyakarta Archaeological Conservation Agency.

Close to a million tourists visit the Borobudur and Prambanan temples every year. AP

**Panasonic**  
ideas for life

**The Great Projector SALE is Back**

May 29 to June 7, 2006

**BEST BUY**

30% smaller than A4 size paper

SRP: \$6,000

Now only P 49,990

30 Direct Play

Complete inputs jacks.

SD Card play

FT-P130  
50 LCD Projector  
1600 ANSI Lumens, 1.3 Kcs

Features: 2 seconds speed start, Direct Power-off, password locks, PC-less presentations

**Lots of Models to choose from. All at Big Big Discounts.**

The Great Projector Sale is back. With the same tradition of "LATEST MODELS", "GREAT DISCOUNTS" and "LOW PRICES" The Great Projector Sale is not the venue for outdated and phased-out models. Prices shall go back to its SRP after the Sale period.

Free Panasonic Cordless Phone from May 29 to May 31, 2006 for each projector purchased

For DTR-PCR Permit #1408 Series of 2006

**2 years Warranty**

**COSMOTECH Projector World**

Panasonic Stocked in the Philippines:  
HEAD OFFICE: Ground Floor King's Court Bldg., Pasong Tamar cor. Dela Rosa St. Alabang City. Tel: 750 2444  
SHOWROOM: G/F Cyberzone SM City Mall Ynares North EDSA, Q.C. Tel: 820 0241 / 920 0954

**SSANGYONG**  
German technology European Design

**Dream Price Deals, Dream Prize Thrills!**

Owning your dream car has never been this easy! Take advantage of SsangYong's easy-financing schemes!

MODEL *	SRP	Actual Down	Advance Monthly (72 mos.)	50% Down	Advance Monthly (72 mos.)
Nexon 2.7 XDI AT *	P 1,925,000	P 105,000	P 34,721	P 962,500	P 19,728
Stavic 2.7 XDI AT *	P 1,495,000	P 114,400	P 26,965	P 747,500	P 15,321

SsangYong has absorbed the impact of the reformed VAT and has specially formulated the above schemes just for you. Other deals also available.

**EVERY PURCHASE OF A NEXON OR STAVIC WILL ALSO ENTITLE YOU TO:**

- FREE PMS up to 30,000 kms. or 1 year, whichever comes first. • A chance to win a trip for 2 to Paris!

Come and visit your nearest SsangYong dealer now! Trade-ins accepted.

\*Other models & variants also available. \*\*All deals are subject to bank approval. Finance runs from March 20 - May 31, 2006. Budget drive from June 1, 2006. See buyers for details. For DTR-PCR Permit No. 1795 Series of 2006

**SSANGYONG**  
Authorized Dealers: Wholesale Auto Head Quarters City Tel: 750 2444, 750 2445, 750 2446, 750 2447, 750 2448, 750 2449, 750 2450, 750 2451, 750 2452, 750 2453, 750 2454, 750 2455, 750 2456, 750 2457, 750 2458, 750 2459, 750 2460, 750 2461, 750 2462, 750 2463, 750 2464, 750 2465, 750 2466, 750 2467, 750 2468, 750 2469, 750 2470, 750 2471, 750 2472, 750 2473, 750 2474, 750 2475, 750 2476, 750 2477, 750 2478, 750 2479, 750 2480, 750 2481, 750 2482, 750 2483, 750 2484, 750 2485, 750 2486, 750 2487, 750 2488, 750 2489, 750 2490, 750 2491, 750 2492, 750 2493, 750 2494, 750 2495, 750 2496, 750 2497, 750 2498, 750 2499, 750 2500, 750 2501, 750 2502, 750 2503, 750 2504, 750 2505, 750 2506, 750 2507, 750 2508, 750 2509, 750 2510, 750 2511, 750 2512, 750 2513, 750 2514, 750 2515, 750 2516, 750 2517, 750 2518, 750 2519, 750 2520, 750 2521, 750 2522, 750 2523, 750 2524, 750 2525, 750 2526, 750 2527, 750 2528, 750 2529, 750 2530, 750 2531, 750 2532, 750 2533, 750 2534, 750 2535, 750 2536, 750 2537, 750 2538, 750 2539, 750 2540, 750 2541, 750 2542, 750 2543, 750 2544, 750 2545, 750 2546, 750 2547, 750 2548, 750 2549, 750 2550, 750 2551, 750 2552, 750 2553, 750 2554, 750 2555, 750 2556, 750 2557, 750 2558, 750 2559, 750 2560, 750 2561, 750 2562, 750 2563, 750 2564, 750 2565, 750 2566, 750 2567, 750 2568, 750 2569, 750 2570, 750 2571, 750 2572, 750 2573, 750 2574, 750 2575, 750 2576, 750 2577, 750 2578, 750 2579, 750 2580, 750 2581, 750 2582, 750 2583, 750 2584, 750 2585, 750 2586, 750 2587, 750 2588, 750 2589, 750 2590, 750 2591, 750 2592, 750 2593, 750 2594, 750 2595, 750 2596, 750 2597, 750 2598, 750 2599, 750 2600, 750 2601, 750 2602, 750 2603, 750 2604, 750 2605, 750 2606, 750 2607, 750 2608, 750 2609, 750 2610, 750 2611, 750 2612, 750 2613, 750 2614, 750 2615, 750 2616, 750 2617, 750 2618, 750 2619, 750 2620, 750 2621, 750 2622, 750 2623, 750 2624, 750 2625, 750 2626, 750 2627, 750 2628, 750 2629, 750 2630, 750 2631, 750 2632, 750 2633, 750 2634, 750 2635, 750 2636, 750 2637, 750 2638, 750 2639, 750 2640, 750 2641, 750 2642, 750 2643, 750 2644, 750 2645, 750 2646, 750 2647, 750 2648, 750 2649, 750 2650, 750 2651, 750 2652, 750 2653, 750 2654, 750 2655, 750 2656, 750 2657, 750 2658, 750 2659, 750 2660, 750 2661, 750 2662, 750 2663, 750 2664, 750 2665, 750 2666, 750 2667, 750 2668, 750 2669, 750 2670, 750 2671, 750 2672, 750 2673, 750 2674, 750 2675, 750 2676, 750 2677, 750 2678, 750 2679, 750 2680, 750 2681, 750 2682, 750 2683, 750 2684, 750 2685, 750 2686, 750 2687, 750 2688, 750 2689, 750 2690, 750 2691, 750 2692, 750 2693, 750 2694, 750 2695, 750 2696, 750 2697, 750 2698, 750 2699, 750 2700, 750 2701, 750 2702, 750 2703, 750 2704, 750 2705, 750 2706, 750 2707, 750 2708, 750 2709, 750 2710, 750 2711, 750 2712, 750 2713, 750 2714, 750 2715, 750 2716, 750 2717, 750 2718, 750 2719, 750 2720, 750 2721, 750 2722, 750 2723, 750 2724, 750 2725, 750 2726, 750 2727, 750 2728, 750 2729, 750 2730, 750 2731, 750 2732, 750 2733, 750 2734, 750 2735, 750 2736, 750 2737, 750 2738, 750 2739, 750 2740, 750 2741, 750 2742, 750 2743, 750 2744, 750 2745, 750 2746, 750 2747, 750 2748, 750 2749, 750 2750, 750 2751, 750 2752, 750 2753, 750 2754, 750 2755, 750 2756, 750 2757, 750 2758, 750 2759, 750 2760, 750 2761, 750 2762, 750 2763, 750 2764, 750 2765, 750 2766, 750 2767, 750 2768, 750 2769, 750 2770, 750 2771, 750 2772, 750 2773, 750 2774, 750 2775, 750 2776, 750 2777, 750 2778, 750 2779, 750 2780, 750 2781, 750 2782, 750 2783, 750 2784, 750 2785, 750 2786, 750 2787, 750 2788, 750 2789, 750 2790, 750 2791, 750 2792, 750 2793, 750 2794, 750 2795, 750 2796, 750 2797, 750 2798, 750 2799, 750 2800, 750 2801, 750 2802, 750 2803, 750 2804, 750 2805, 750 2806, 750 2807, 750 2808, 750 2809, 750 2810, 750 2811, 750 2812, 750 2813, 750 2814, 750 2815, 750 2816, 750 2817, 750 2818, 750 2819, 750 2820, 750 2821, 750 2822, 750 2823, 750 2824, 750 2825, 750 2826, 750 2827, 750 2828, 750 2829, 750 2830, 750 2831, 750 2832, 750 2833, 750 2834, 750 2835, 750 2836, 750 2837, 750 2838, 750 2839, 750 2840, 750 2841, 750 2842, 750 2843, 750 2844, 750 2845, 750 2846, 750 2847, 750 2848, 750 2849, 750 2850, 750 2851, 750 2852, 750 2853, 750 2854, 750 2855, 750 2856, 750 2857, 750 2858, 750 2859, 750 2860, 750 2861, 750 2862, 750 2863, 750 2864, 750 2865, 750 2866, 750 2867, 750 2868, 750 2869, 750 2870, 750 2871, 750 2872, 750 2873, 750 2874, 750 2875, 750 2876, 750 2877, 750 2878, 750 2879, 750 2880, 750 2881, 750 2882, 750 2883, 750 2884, 750 2885, 750 2886, 750 2887, 750 2888, 750 2889, 750 2890, 750 2891, 750 2892, 750 2893, 750 2894, 750 2895, 750 2896, 750 2897, 750 2898, 750 2899, 750 2900, 750 2901, 750 2902, 750 2903, 750 2904, 750 2905, 750 2906, 750 2907, 750 2908, 750 2909, 750 2910, 750 2911, 750 2912, 750 2913, 750 2914, 750 2915, 750 2916, 750 2917, 750 2918, 750 2919, 750 2920, 750 2921, 750 2922, 750 2923, 750 2924, 750 2925, 750 2926, 750 2927, 750 2928, 750 2929, 750 2930, 750 2931, 750 2932, 750 2933, 750 2934, 750 2935, 750 2936, 750 2937, 750 2938, 750 2939, 750 2940, 750 2941, 750 2942, 750 2943, 750 2944, 750 2945, 750 2946, 750 2947, 750 2948, 750 2949, 750 2950, 750 2951, 750 2952, 750 2953, 750 2954, 750 2955, 750 2956, 750 2957, 750 2958, 750 2959, 750 2960, 750 2961, 750 2962, 750 2963, 750 2964, 750 2965, 750 2966, 750 2967, 750 2968, 750 2969, 750 2970, 750 2971, 750 2972, 750 2973, 750 2974, 750 2975, 750 2976, 750 2977, 750 2978, 750 2979, 750 2980, 750 2981, 750 2982, 750 2983, 750 2984, 750 2985, 750 2986, 750 2987, 750 2988, 750 2989, 750 2990, 750 2991, 750 2992, 750 2993, 750 2994, 750 2995, 750 2996, 750 2997, 750 2998, 750 2999, 750 3000, 750 3001, 750 3002, 750 3003, 750 3004, 750 3005, 750 3006, 750 3007, 750 3008, 750 3009, 750 3010, 750 3011, 750 3012, 750 3013, 750 3014, 750 3015, 750 3016, 750 3017, 750 3018, 750 3019, 750 3020, 750 3021, 750 3022, 750 3023, 750 3024, 750 3025, 750 3026, 750 3027, 750 3028, 750 3029, 750 3030, 750 3031, 750 3032, 750 3033, 750 3034, 750 3035, 750 3036, 750 3037, 750 3038, 750 3039, 750 3040, 750 3041, 750 3042,



# Temblors jolt Papua, Babuyan, Tonga isles

From page A1

people on the central Indonesian island of Java on Saturday.

"Sometimes, where there is a big earthquake in one area ... it might upset the tectonic activity in other areas, but not necessarily," Sardina said.

"For that, we'd have to analyze a whole lot of archive data to see a certain pattern in terms of seismic activity," he added. "I don't think they're related."

Calls to Papua New Guinea's National Disaster Center went unanswered on Sunday, and details on injuries or damage were not immediately available.

Police in Tonga's capital, Nuku'alofa, and in the Ha'apai Islands group capital of Pangai to the north, reported no serious injuries or damage.

"Yes, we felt it," said Constable Moses Latu in Pangai, which was near the epicenter.

"There are no damage reports and no injuries—everything's fine," Latu told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

In Nuku'alofa, publisher Mary Fonua said the quake was short but sharp.

"We definitely felt it and we went running outside the moment it struck because it was a significant jolt," Fonua said.

## Ring of Fire

Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Indonesia are part of the Pacific "Ring of Fire" where earthquakes and volcanic activity are frequent.

Experts believe the activity in the earth's crust over the past two days—including the awakening of the Mount Merapi volcano near the epicenter of Saturday's quake—was linked to the Ring of Fire.

"There's no doubt they are effects of the same cause—the ring of weakness in the earth's surface," said Gary Gibson, professor of seismology at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia.

The Ring of Fire, which stretches along the western coast of the Americas through the island nations of the South Pacific and on through Southeast Asia, is a series of fault lines—or weaknesses—in the hardened upper layers of the earth's surface, known as the crust.

These lines of weakness are the meeting points of huge continental plates that make up the crust

and which literally float on the molten rock of the earth's core.

These plates are in constant motion, clashing with each other or moving away from each other, creating stresses and pressure buildups at their margins.

This stress is released through volcanic eruptions, when the molten rock is ejected as magma through fissures in the crust, or via earthquakes, when the pressure causes the crust to buckle and shift.

Most of these seismic events are small and occur under the sea, where the majority of the continental plate margins are found.

But occasionally they generate volcanic explosions, earthquakes or landslides.

According to the US Geological Survey (USGS), an average of 19.4 quakes of 7.0-plus strength occur on the Ring of Fire each year. Indonesia has suffered from three catastrophic earthquakes in the past 18 months.

On Dec. 26, 2004, the 9.3-magnitude quake unleashed tsunamis that crashed into Indian Ocean shorelines and killed 168,000 people in Indonesia's Aceh province alone.

Six hundred people were killed in an 8.7 quake just 160 km to the south on March 28, 2005.

## Comparatively small

Gibson said that the flurry of seismic activity of the past days was comparatively small.

"On any given day you would find seismic activity greater than this throughout the Pacific region," he said.

"Last week, there was a sequence of earthquakes between New Zealand and Tonga that were far greater—we got up to magnitude of 7.8 on one day," he said. "But nobody knows anything about it because it didn't affect anybody."

Although this activity is the result of the weak points in the earth's surface, experts are not convinced that they create a ripple, or domino, effect of one quake setting off another.

"Earthquakes do tend to happen in clusters but they aren't triggered by one another," he said.

"The seismic wave created by an earthquake can travel for hundreds of kilometers and then dissipate. The earth's crust is actually very good at absorbing that energy," Reports from AFP and AP

flexibility  
in space

with  
varifold architectural products, Inc.  
www.varifold.com

3187 Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City  
Tel. Nos.: 882-0271 to 73 / 729-2667 - Fax: 882-0269  
varifold@globelines.com.ph

with  
modular  
system

ASUS recommends Windows XP Professional

## Twice the Power

Dual-Core Technology for faster and more stable processing than ever before.

Brace yourself for the ultimate mobile multimedia experience with ASUS notebooks' latest dual core technology that lets you enjoy simultaneous high-quality audio & video playback, gaming and web browsing.

Impressive mobile performance power-packed in a sleek, ergonomic design, supported by a 2-year global warranty. ASUS outperforms the competition to give you extreme power to go mobile.



## UNCERTAIN FUTURE

An unidentified boy ponders his future after surviving the earthquake that killed more than 4,300 people in Indonesia. More than 200,000 people were left homeless by the quake, the second natural disaster to strike Indonesia since the December 2004 tsunami that killed 200,000 people across Asia. AFP



HIS ONLY BREAKFAST. Noodles are the only breakfast for one of the many boys injured in the deadly quake that hit Indonesia. More than 10,000 people were injured in the quake. AFP

## ASUS SERVICE CENTER:

ASUSWORLD  
Cyberzone, 4th Floor  
SM Megamall, Bldg. B  
(02) 638.2955

TEKZONE  
(02) 812-8976

PC Center Gibson 7231718  
Cebu City (02) 920-9140 to 41  
TCA 9141270-73  
Silicon Valley (02) 571-5611 to 19  
Volcano Computer Systems, Inc.  
(02) 992-1222  
Accord House 42 08029  
M1 Computer Mart 623-6608  
Dynamix Logic 633-2293  
L-Hub (02) 775-0140 to 41  
Electroworld 813-6154  
Octagon Computer 839-9088  
Ipsium Computer 725-1142 to 43  
Microstation 437-1473  
Smartphone 811-421-84  
PC Line 824-3428  
Digital World 71441 725-5136  
Aeromax 893-0408

Digital Interface  
(02) 231 1254  
Computer World Marketing  
(02) 221-8251

Cebu  
Thinking Tech (02) 354-2227  
E-Com (02) 282-5155 to 52  
Wired Systems (02) 255-5282  
Hello  
Cebu City (02) 337-6874  
Bicol  
Bicol Computer (02) 434-2527 to 29

Interlink Computer Systems  
Cagayan de Oro  
(088) 856-8788  
(0877) 872-9915  
Batuan (085) 815-4380  
Migan (083) 213-2783  
Valencia (081) 818-3543

\* Prices and product specifications are subject to change without prior notice

ASUS  
HEART OF TECHNOLOGY

For inquiries: Manila (02) 7249998 Email: bcl\_sales@banbros.ph Cebu (032) 4227760-65 Email: sales@banbrosco.com

- Intel Core Duo Processor T2300 @ 1.66 GHz
- 3024MB Memory
- 80GB HDD
- DVD Super Multi Double Layer Drive
- 15.4" WXGA
- ATI Mobility Radeon X1600 256MB
- Windows XP Home
- Intel PRO/Wireless 3945 a/b/g
- Gigabit LAN
- 4-in-1 Card Reader
- 1.3M pixel Web camera
- Bluetooth
- 2.6 kgs.

**P130,000**

- Intel Core Duo Processor T2300 @ 1.66 GHz
- 512MB Memory
- 60GB HDD
- DVD Super Multi Double Layer Drive
- 14.1" WXGA Colorshine
- 256MB Turbo Cache NVIDIA GeForce 7300 Video
- Windows XP Home
- Intel PRO Wireless 3945 a/b/g
- Gigabit LAN
- 4-in-1 Card Reader
- 1.3M pixel Web Camera
- Bluetooth

**P14,983.33/mo @6 months 0% interest**

- Intel Core Duo Processor T2300 @ 1.66 GHz
- 512MB Memory
- 60GB HDD
- DVD Super Multi Double Layer Drive
- 15" XGA
- Intel 945GM
- Windows XP Home
- Intel PRO Wireless 3945 a/b/g
- 10/100 Ethernet
- 4-in-1 Card Reader
- 1.3M pixel Web camera

**P7,491.67/mo @12 months 0% interest**

- Intel Core Duo Processor T2300 @ 1.66 GHz
- 512MB Memory
- 60GB HDD
- DVD Super Multi Double Layer Drive
- 15" XGA
- Intel 945GM
- Windows XP Home
- Intel PRO Wireless 3945 a/b/g
- 10/100 Ethernet
- 4-in-1 Card Reader
- 1.3M pixel Web camera

**P6,658.33/mo @12 months 0% interest**



EZ2 29 25  
(All in exact order)  
SUERTRES 5 3 7

# NEWS

Text us your feedback: [inquirer.news.name@age/city/message](mailto:inquirer.news.name@age/city/message) to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

6 16 26 35 40  
P10,346,547.60



**US CLEANUP OF MERCURY SPILL.** Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zaleta (3rd from right) presents to businessman Lucio C. Tan a coffee table book about the city for his support in the cleanup of the mercury spill at St. Andrew's School-Parañaque. Also in photo are the US Environmental Protection Agency scientists who helped in the cleanup: Philip Campagna, Steve Calanog, Brian Brass and Duane Newell. At right is Valerie Santos of the US Embassy economic section.

## Joker to Palace: Stop the 'loose cannons' at PCGG

By TJ Burgonio

SEN. JOKER ARROYO YESTERDAY URGED Malacañang to stop the "loose cannons" in the Presidential Commission on Good Govern-

ment from striking a deal with the Marcos family and to make its position clear in the matter.

Otherwise, the government would lose the "moral high ground on accountability," the maverick administration lawmaker warned.

"The PCGG chair and its commissioners are loose cannons. They can't do that on their own (make deals)," said Arroyo, a former human rights lawyer, in a phone interview.

Malacañang, he stressed, "must step in in the current PCGG mess and make a policy pronouncement on the matter."

"You can't let loose cannons talk more and lose the government moral high ground on accountability. That's what the government is all about—accountability of public funds," he said.

### Resolve criminal, civil cases

The PCGG, under Chair Camilo Sabio, has stepped up efforts to enter into a deal with the family of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, hoping to resolve the criminal and civil cases it has been pursuing against them the past 20 years.

Despite the criticism, PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede has said he was pressing ahead with negotiations over the sharing of the Marcos assets estimated at between \$5 billion and \$10 billion, in exchange for the dropping of all cases.

While the Palace has defended the PCGG move, President Macapagal-Arroyo has neither encouraged nor dissuaded the PCGG officials from forging a compromise with the Marcoses, presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor has said.

Senator Arroyo stressed that the ill-gotten wealth cases were "essentially moral and accountability issues."

"The money issue is included because public funds are involved and, therefore, must be recovered. But that is incidental to the moral issue," he said in a statement he issued after the interview.

### Principle of accountability

"The statements of the PCGG officials undermine the inherent commitment of the government to uphold the principle of accountability without which no government can long exist," he said.

Abcede came under fire last week for inviting former First Lady Imelda Marcos to his birthday party and even dancing with her.

"What's wrong with that?" he had said, insisting his hobnobbing with her would not affect his job at the PCGG.

Arroyo also chided the PCGG officials for negotiating with the Marcoses over pending cases "whose status are not unfavorable to the government."

"So why settle? One settles because he is in a weak position and the government is not so situated," he said, pointing out that past Supreme Court decisions on Marcos cases had been "generally favorable" to the government.

In a radio interview, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. reiterated that he was open to a deal with the Marcoses on condition they fully disclose all their ill-gotten wealth and the assets are divided 90-10 in favor of the government.

He stressed, however, that only the civil, not the criminal, cases be the subject of any compromise.

### Defending Salonga

Arroyo also chided Abcede for beating the accomplishments of past PCGG chairs, including former Senate President Jovito Salonga who recently criticized the current move to settle with the Marcoses and likened it to the Holocaust victims striking a deal with the Nazis.

Arroyo pointed out that in the recent Senate budget hearings it was established that an estimated P60 billion had been turned over by previous PCGG administrations to the Department of Agrarian Reform for the beneficiaries of land reform in keeping with the law.

"Without those funds, tenant beneficiaries would not have the lands they presently own," Arroyo said.

"Yet the present PCGG, which did not contribute one centavo to the P60 billion, has the gall to belittle the work of the past commissions under four presidents and crows that it can do better through compromise, overlooking the fact that the status of the remaining pending cases are not unfavorable to the government," he said.

Arroyo also wondered what could be behind the negotiations between the PCGG and the Marcoses.

"One thing is missing in all this brouhaha. It is an axiom that even before one starts with negotiations, the parties must agree on an inventory or list of what will be discussed," he said.

"Both the Marcoses and the PCGG are ominously silent on that inventory. Public funds are involved. The public has the right to know. That cannot be ignored."

**MAKE A KILLING WITH A FREE PC.**

Subscribe now and a free PC is yours for the taking!

New subscribers to PLDT myDSL Biz get a free Pentium 4 PC or wireless router that is sure to help raise the bar. Choose from any of the PCs and routers.

A quantitative research study conducted among broadband subscribers proved that PLDT myDSL outperforms competitors in ease of logging on, downloading speed, and reliability. It comes then, as no surprise, why 3 out of 4 broadband subscribers prefer PLDT myDSL over other broadband providers.

Package	Explorer	Entrepreneur	Enterprise	Empire
Upgraded Speed (up to)	16 Mbps	20 Mbps	2.5 Mbps	2.7 Mbps
Monthly Fees (not included)	P3,000	P4,000	P8,000	P14,500
Free Products	Wireless router	One (1) PC	Two (2) PCs	One (1) PC and one (1) laptop

Only 1,000 PCs available! Hurry while supplies last!

PC Desktop specs: Intel Pentium 4 Processor, 1GB RAM, 80GB Hard Drive, Windows XP Home Edition, 14" LCD Monitor, Keyboard, Mouse, Modem, and Power Supply. Wireless router: 802.11g, 54Mbps, 4 antennas, and 10/100 Ethernet ports. All products are new and unused.



# Aplus METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Text us your feedback: Inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr\_metro@inquirer.com.ph

## Rains topple wall; boy killed, 6 hurt

By DJ Yap

A BOY WAS KILLED WHILE SIX PERSONS were hurt the other day after a wall collapsed due to heavy rains and hit several houses in a depressed area in Quezon City.

At around 9 p.m. Saturday, rains poured down on Purok 21, Barangay Commonwealth and floodwater began collecting at the base of a 10-foot wall which separated a compound of shanties from the nearby Ideal Subdivision.

The floodwater later spilled over the wall which collapsed and was swept toward the shanties, witnesses said.

A 4-year-old boy identified as John Lloyd Sibelo drowned in the floodwater, said investigator PO2 Leo Nino Pasco.

Sibelo was rushed to the Far Eastern University Hospital but he was pronounced dead on arrival at 9:22 p.m.

The boy's mother Marivic and his siblings Junel, 7, Michael, 13, and Thomx, 12, sustained slight cuts and scratches. They also suffered from electric shock after a live wire fell into the water, Pasco said.

Two other persons identified as Christy Alaryaw, 18, and Ryza Alaryaw, 1, also sustained slight scratches, police said.

Their shanty, along with the houses of at least three other families, was wrecked.

Police said some of the families were planning to file charges against subdivision homeowners who had ordered the construction of the wall.

But the father of the drowned victim, Turano Sibelo, told the INQUIRER that they would probably not be able to pursue the case, since they did not have the money for legal fees.

He added, though, that he would take up the matter with barangay officials.

## QC cops recover stolen van

HOURS AFTER IT WAS TAKEN at gunpoint by three men, a Toyota Innova owned by the daughter of former congressman Sergio Apostol was found abandoned in Quezon City yesterday.

Quezon City police discovered the vehicle of Amelyn Apostol-Buenavieja in Sitio Talanay, Barangay Batasan Hills at about 8 a.m., according to investigators.

The van, with plate number ZCX 472, was stolen on Saturday night by three men wielding 45-cal pistols, said investigator SPO1 Omar Enomis of the Batasan Hills Police Station.

The victim had just boarded the vehicle, parked along Maginhawa Street in UP Village, when the suspects approached her and ordered her to get off, police said.

Police initially thought it was a "carjacking" case but they are now investigating other angles after the recovery of the vehicle.

"Nothing was taken from the vehicle. All the car parts and the victim's belongings were intact," Enomis noted.

DJ Yap



SIMPLE PLEASURES

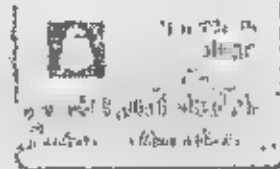
A boatman rests, content to let his vessel drift on the water while waiting for the sun to set on Manila Bay. ERIC ARAZAS

### Welcome to the preferred life.



As a Preferred client, your financial security and peace of mind is of utmost importance. Hence, we give you access to wealth-building opportunities offered only to a select few. You'll also get first crack at investment options and new BPI products. All these to make sure that your money works harder for you.

A dedicated Relationship Manager will give you professional financial advice and personally manage your investments. Plus, you get VIP treatment in your BPI branch.



With your BPI Express Teller Gold Card, you get discounts in selected establishments, special rates on loans, plus access to exclusive events.

This is the Preferred Life, as you can only experience with BPI. Visit us now.

*Preferred*  
BANKING

A life PREFERRED



BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS  
A tradition of leadership





JUANITO Alba, Caloocan's chief agriculturist, tends his garden: a 2,300-sq m lot at the back of City Hall which used to be a garage.

## Urban gardens grow in Caloocan

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE LACK OF SPACE SHOULD NOT stop one from having a garden.

"Plants can grow anywhere, even in your own bathroom," said Juanito Alba, Caloocan City chief agriculturist.

He spoke to the INQUIRER while inspecting the mushroom house in the city government's urban garden farm located on Camarin Road in Bagong Silang.

Mushrooms, for example, can be grown inside the bathroom, Alba said. All that one needs is driftwood and moss—items that cost P10—which can be hung near the shower.

"The moisture in the air when someone takes a shower and the carbon dioxide emitted by the human body is sufficient for the plant to grow," the agriculturist said.

### Any space available

According to Alba, plant growing should not depend on the space available.

Plants could also be grown in plastic cups, soft drink bottles, discarded toilet bowls, old tires, or any container which you could put soil into.

"By putting up your own garden, you could enjoy plants and earn as well," Alba said.

To prove it, the chief agriculturist gave the INQUIRER a tour of his urban garden—a 2,300-sq m lot which used to be the garage of the City Hall.

In the middle of the garden are an array of plastic cups, old tires and styrofoam containers in which a variety of plants are growing.

### Different varieties

Also found in the garden are assorted vegetables—from radishes, carrots, kangkong, onions, broccoli, cauliflower and pechay—among others. Since news about the urban garden broke out, some housewives and residents in nearby areas have been flocking to the area to buy vegetables.

"Our prices are cheaper compared to wet markets and buyers can even harvest the vegetables themselves if they want to," the agriculturist said.

There are also herbal plants, fruit trees and mahogany saplings which would be planted later on along major roads in the city.

Alba refers to his garden as "a showcase which could be replicated in other areas in the city where there are idle lands."

He said the project is in line with the Caloocan City government's greening program which aims to alleviate poverty



CORN, cabbage, carrots and other vegetables grow in Alba's garden.

PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA



TO GROW mushrooms, all you need is driftwood and moss.

and in the process, bring crimes down. "Instead of getting drunk which usually ends in fighting, people could be busy planting and talking about their crops,"

the agriculturist said.

Aside from encouraging hard work and productivity, garden tenders would also never go hungry as long as they

plant vegetables, Alba added.

He pointed to radish, cabbage, pechay, carrots, tomato, chinese kangkong, onions and "creepers" like ampalaya, patola, upo and squash as low-maintenance plants that could be grown easily.

### Ready to share

"Our urban garden workers are ready to share their skills with anyone who is interested in having a garden of their own," Alba said.

According to him, he has long been advocating urban gardens but failed to enlist the support of previous officials of the city government.

"There were projects in the past but they did not push through because of politics," Alba said. Thanks to Sen. Loi Ejercito and City Mayor Enrico Echiverri, the project has finally gotten off the ground.

After its launching last month, some idle lands in the city with the permission of their owners, have already been converted into community gardens. Barangay Silang, the biggest barangay in the city, will also soon have its own pocket and mini-gardens, Alba said.

"We also want to encourage the putting up of community gardens, particularly in densely populated areas where there are lots of jobless residents. We will be teaching them to appreciate hard work and how to earn from it," he added.

## MMDA begins clearing sidewalks

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT Authority will be clearing sidewalks leading to schools starting today to help students get to their classes quickly and safely.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said yesterday that the agency's Sidewalk Clearing Operations Group would be conducting week-long simultaneous operations throughout Metro Manila in preparation for the opening of

classes next month.

"We will have operations all over Metro Manila in time for the opening of classes so that the sidewalks would be safe and orderly for our students. We would have operations in areas near schools where there are many vendors and other obstructions on the sidewalk," Fernando told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Some areas being targeted for clearing operations are Aurora Boulevard in Quezon City and the University Belt in Manila.

"We will confiscate goods and any obstruction we find on the sidewalk. Anything on the sidewalk is considered common garbage," said Fernando.

He said the agency has already informed those who may be affected by the operation.

For the past four years, the MMDA has been implementing sidewalk cleaning operations which include the seizure of sidewalk vendors' wares, plus the removal of structures that occupy the road right-of-way.

## METROBRIEFS

### Death inside a bar

A CHINESE-Filipino septuagenarian died while allegedly drinking inside a KTV bar in Sta. Cruz, Manila shortly after midnight yesterday. Police identified the victim as Tian Lay Uy, 75, of 1210 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila. According to SP02 Benito Cabatbat of the Manila Police District Homicide Section, the incident took place at around 1:20 a.m. at the TOP Royal KTV on Tomas Mapa Street, Sta. Cruz. Police said the victim suddenly experienced difficulty of breathing and collapsed while drinking. Uy was declared dead on arrival when he was taken to the Jose R. Reyes Memorial Medical Center for treatment, Cabatbat said.

Margaux C. Ortiz

### QC's flood-prone areas

THE RIVER channel traversing Nepa Q-Mart, a public market in Quezon City, has been identified as a priority area in the city's flood control program this rainy season. Aside from Nepa Q-Mart in Barangay West Kamias, other areas spread across 38 barangays have been identified as flood-prone areas. Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. has approved the purchase of dredging machines to rid canals, esteros and creeks in the city of garbage which clog the drainage system. He also ordered the installation of cyclone wires around channels to prevent people from throwing trash into waterways.

DJ Yap

### Faster mail delivery

IN AN EFFORT to speed up its mail distribution service, the Philippine Postal Corp (PhilPost) has purchased 49 brand-new mail vans. Postmaster general Darlo Rama said the Mitsubishi L-300 vans, which will be added to the company's fleet of vehicles, would ensure faster delivery of letters and packages throughout the country. "We are confident that the recent acquisition of brand new mail vans will boost our capabilities to better serve the mailing public and attract more institutional mailers to patronize the services of PhilPost," Rama said in a statement.

Tina G. Santos

### Training for teachers

TEACHERS in Marikina City have just completed a five-day training program aimed at updating them on different teaching strategies in order to raise the quality of instruction in the city. The program, held from May 22 to 26, had the theme, "Moving toward Excellence through Character Transportation." Some of the speakers during the train-

ing program were Dr. Queenie Lee Chua of the Ateneo de Manila University, "The Effective Teacher" and Dr. Renato Solidum of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, "Environmental and Natural Hazards." Dr. Teresita G. Domalanta, Director IV of the Department of Education-National Capital Region, was the keynote speaker during the opening program while Marikina Mayor Ma Lourdes C. Fernando was the guest of honor.

### Homeless no more

EIGHTY families who used to live on other people's property now have a place they can call their own. The Quezon City government has awarded certificates of condominium titles to a new batch of beneficiaries for its low-cost housing program in Barangay Escopio, Project 4. The beneficiaries, including 25 City Hall employees, will occupy a five-story condominium-type building located just a block away from Aurora Boulevard and the Metro Rail and Light Rail Transit stations. They will live in a unit measuring 15-sq m each equipped with its own water supply, electrical connection, concrete roof deck and fire alarm system. Each unit has a selling price ranging from P161,969 to P225,000 and may be availed of through lump sum or staggered payments.

DJ Yap

### Boy needs new liver

SEVEN-year-old Rainier Mitchell Caros needs your help. Diagnosed with Biliary Atresia, a liver disease characterized by the absence or closure of bile ducts, Rainier's only chance at survival is a liver transplant. Rainier was operated on in July 1999 but he still



needs a new liver. Since liver transplants are not done in the country, he needs around P3 million to P4 million to undergo an operation in Taiwan. His mother, Glorilyn, is appealing to kind-hearted readers for financial and medical help. They may call 933-8495 and 0918-3929927 or e-mail cglorilyn@hotmail.com. Donations can also be deposited in any Banco de Oro branch, payable to the account of Rainier Mitchell C. Caros, 330112910 or Glorilyn Caros, 330169963 (dollar savings).

## Mishap leaves 1 dead, 2 hurt

By Edison C. Tandoc Jr.

A PACKED PASSENGER JEEP WAS GOING down a flyover in Marikina City at around 7 p.m. Monday when driver Mauro Regidor, 31, suddenly lost control of the vehicle and hit at least three bystanders.

Regidor's passengers were unharmed but Diomedes Moises, 58, who was just standing in front of a bakery, was killed. Two others were injured, investigator SPO2 Sixto Paul no said.

Regidor told the police that he had just come from Cubao and was on his way to Marikina. As the jeep was traveling on Bonifacio Avenue, Barangay Barangka, a pedestrian suddenly crossed the street. Regidor said he stepped on the brakes but the jeep kept on moving.

He turned the wheel to the right and the vehicle went up on the sidewalk but it was still moving fast, Regidor said.

He added that he turned the wheel to the right to make it slow down but he hit Maricel Briones, 26, who was crossing the street.

The jeep continued moving as Regidor once again turned the wheel to the right. This time, the vehicle ran over Moises before hitting another passenger jeep parked on the street.

Ricky Geronimo, the driver of the other jeep, was also injured.

Regidor's jeep finally stopped after it hit a fire hydrant on the sidewalk.

The three victims were brought to the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center where Moises died while undergoing treatment.



### THE PLACE TO BE

With classes set to open just a few days from now, parents, with their children in tow, flock to Divisoria to shop for school supplies.



# Pope gives hope for quick John Paul sainthood

KRAKOW, POLAND—"I AM STILL alive," Pope John Paul II, then 79 and ill already for years, mused on his last trip to his hometown in 1999. On Saturday, his successor, Benedict XVI, suggested again that Poland's favorite son would live on as a saint, telling pilgrims at a shrine that he hoped it would happen soon.

The new Pope's impromptu remarks drew wild applause from about 15,000 people—some holding signs saying, "Sainthood now!"—who had gathered to see Benedict on the third day of a pilgrimage to the places that shaped the life of John Paul, who died in April 2005.

Benedict showed no sign of excising his right as Pope to proclaim John Paul a saint immediately, though he has already waived the usual five-year wait-

ing period after death.

But in speaking with such emotion and certainty, Benedict seemed to cut a quick path to Poles' hearts, in a trip both "sentimental," as he called it, and strategic in its appeal for this Catholic country not to dilute its faith as it becomes richer and more European.

On Saturday morning, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, for decades John Paul's assistant, now the archbishop of Krakow, greeted Benedict on a trip to John Paul's hometown, Wadowice, where on his final trip home, in 1999, John Paul allowed himself a flood of public memories:

"In this town everything started," he said at the time. "Life started. School started, my studies." He paused, then continued:

"My priesthood started."

On Saturday, before a thick and cheering crowd on the central square, Benedict visited two landmarks: He went to his predecessor's old church, the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, then crossed a cobblestone street to see the house where the Pope, born Karol Wojtyla, was born and grew up.

"I wished to stop precisely here, in the place where his faith began and matured, to pray together with all of you that he may soon be elevated to the glory of the altars," Benedict told the crowd, using less direct language about the possibility of sainthood than he did a little later at the shrine at Zbrzydowska. The night before here in Krakow, he also mentioned the possibility of sainthood for John Paul. **NYT**



POPE Benedict XVI in Krakow, Poland, May 27, brought joy to Poles by announcing that he hopes John Paul II will be made a saint "in the near future."



## PHILAM BANK

invites you to...

# Take a Bite of the Big Apple!




Every new peso deposit or auto loan with us gives you a chance to win an American-inspired ~~tax-free~~ holiday to

**Camp John Hay Manor, Hong Kong DISNEYLAND, and all the way to the world-famous WALDORF ASTORIA in New York City, U.S.A.** where our headquarters are located.

And to make banking even more rewarding, we are giving away gift certificates from **Rustan's, Abenson, Samsonite, and Yellow Cab Pizza Co.** for fresh peso deposits made and **24-Hour Plus** worldwide Personal Accident Insurance cover worth **P500,000** for new auto loans.



**1st Draw**

**Camp John Hay Manor**

Vacation for two (2)

3D/2N stay at Camp John Hay Manor  
P3,000 pocket money  
(Total of 10 winners)



**2nd Draw**

**Hong Kong Disneyland**

Fun trip for four (4)

3D/2N stay at Disney's Hollywood Hotel  
Roundtrip economy airfare via PAL  
Daily breakfast  
Disneyland entrance tickets for 2 days  
US\$500 pocket money  
(Total of 3 winners)



**Grand Draw**

**Waldorf Astoria New York City**

Holiday for two (2)

6D/5N stay at Waldorf Astoria Hotel  
Roundtrip economy airfare via Northwest Airlines  
Broadway tickets for 2 (show of your choice)  
US\$1,000 pocket money  
(Total of 2 winners)

**The sooner and bigger your bite, the better. So, take a bite now!**

For more details, visit or call any Philam Bank branch near you or dial **813-9772 loc. 2033**.

Promo runs from May 22 to October 31, 2006 only.

See posters and flyers for more details





**PHILAM BANK**

**ACI** A Member of American International Group Inc.

 Member of Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation.  
Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor P250,000.00.



# The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

## Iran president consolidating power

TEHRAN, IRAN—PRESIDENT MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD is trying to consolidate power in the office of the presidency in a way never before seen in the 27-year history of the Islamic Republic, apparently with the tacit approval of Iran's supreme leader, according to government officials and political analysts here.

That rare unity of elected and religious leadership at the highest levels offers the United States an opportunity to talk to a government, however combative, that has often spoken with multiple voices at cross purposes.

But if the United States, which severed relations with Iran after the 1979 revolution, opened such a dialogue, it could boost the prestige of the Iranian president, who has pushed toward confrontation with the West.

Political analysts and people close to the government here say that Ahmadinejad and his allies are trying to buttress a system of conservative clerical rule that had lost credibility with the public. Their strategy hinges on trying to win concessions from the West on Iran's nuclear

program and opening direct, high-level talks with the United States, while easing social restrictions, cracking down on political dissent and building a new political class from outside the clergy.

Ahmadinejad is pressing far beyond the boundaries set by other presidents. For the first time since the revolution, a president has overshadowed the nation's chief cleric, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on both domestic and international affairs.

"Usually the supreme leader would be the front-runner in all internal and external issues," said Hamidreza Taraghi, the political director of the strongly conservative Islamic Coalition Party. "Here we have the president out front on all these issues and the

supreme leader is supporting him."

The changing nature of Iran's domestic political landscape has potentially far-reaching implications for the United States. While Iran has adopted a confrontational approach toward the West, it has also signaled—however clumsily—a desire to mend relations. Though the content of Ahmadinejad's letter to President Bush was widely mocked here and in Washington for its religious focus and preachy tone, it played well to Iran's most conservative religious leaders. Analysts here said that it represented both Ahmadinejad's independence and his position as a messenger for the system, and that the very act of reaching out was significant.

"If the US had relations with Iran under the reform government, it would not have been a complete relationship," said Alireza Akhbari, a retired general with the Revolutionary Guard and former deputy defense minister, referring to the administration of former President Mohammad Khatami. "But if there can be a detente now, that means the whole country is behind relations with the West." **NYT**



**ST. PETERSBURG'S 300TH YEAR**

Russian girls in costumes parade along a St. Petersburg street during a carnival to mark the city's 300th birthday, May 27.

## With illegals engaged to fight wildfires, US West faces dilemma

By Kirk Johnson

SALEM, ORE.—THE DEBATE over immigration, which has filtered into almost every corner of American life in recent months, is now sweeping through the woods, and the implications

could be immense for the coming fire season in the West.

As many as half of the roughly 5,000 private firefighters based in the Pacific Northwest and contracted by state and federal governments to fight forest fires are immigrants, mostly from Mexico. And many of

them are working here illegally.

A recent report by the inspector general for the US Forest Service said illegal immigrants had been fighting fires for several years. The Forest Service said in response that it would work with immigration and customs enforcement officers

and the Social Security Administration to improve the process of identifying violators.

Oregon, which administers private fire contracts for the Forest Service, has imposed tougher rules on companies that employ firefighters, including a require-

ment that firefighting crew leaders have a working command of English and a formal business location where crew members can assemble.

Some Hispanic contractors say the changes could cause many immigrants to stay away from the jobs. Other forestry workers say that firefighting may simply be too important—and too difficult to attract other applicants—to allow for a crackdown on illegal workers.

"I don't think it's in anybody's interest, including the Forest Service, to enforce immigration—they're benefiting from it," said Blanca Escobedo, owner of 3B's Forestry in Medford, Ore., which fields two 20-person fire crews.

The private contract crews can be dispatched through the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, to anywhere in the country where fires get too big or too nu-

merous for local entities to handle.

The work, which pays \$10 to \$15 an hour, is demanding and dangerous. A workweek fighting a big fire can go 100 hours.

The plight of the fire companies underscores the surprising directions that the debate over immigration can lead, like government-required bilingualism to ensure everyone on a fire line can understand one another, while threatening to scare away needed workers.

Serafin Garcia, who came from Mexico in the '80s and started a fire company in Salem in 2001, said the new rules could ruin him. Not only is he likely to lose workers, but some industry officials suggest that larger fire companies, which tend to be owned by non-Hispanics, could crush smaller competitors like Garcia, using immigration and safety concerns as a smokescreen. **NYT**

**CHECK YOUR IMMUNITY**

If you get sick easily and take a lot of time to recover from it, or if you get tired quickly due to stress and lack of sleep, you may have a weak immune system!

Boost your immunity. Take a complete multivitamin packed with Korean and Siberian Ginsengs plus Selenium and Zinc to improve stamina and immune response against viruses and bacteria. Add to that the precious Coenzyme Q10 that provides vital energy to the heart and acts as a potent antioxidant that hunts down cancer-causing free radicals.

Not all multivitamin brands have this unique immune boosting formulation, so make the right choice!

UPGRADE TO

**IMMUVIT**™

2 Ginsengs for Potency + CoQ10 for Protection + Vitamins & Minerals for Power

**BOOST YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM!**



For more information, e-mail [Immuvit@pascualab.com](mailto:Immuvit@pascualab.com)  
Text HOTLINE: Type Immuvit, your message and to 0920-6618126  
Visit: [www.immuvit.com](http://www.immuvit.com)

Available at mercury drug stores and other leading drugstores nationwide

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### CIA nominee Hayden confirmed

WASHINGTON—The Senate overwhelmingly confirmed Gen. Michael V. Hayden on Friday as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, despite some senators' criticism of his role in overseeing a domestic electronic surveillance program. The 78-15 vote showed that Hayden's popularity on Capitol Hill as an articulate advocate for the spy agencies outweighed doubts about the legality of the eavesdropping program he ran as director of the National Security Agency. The only Republican to vote against confirmation was Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, who has said he believes the program violates the law. Some senators suggested that they had set aside concerns about the program in part because they believed that Hayden could restore morale and purpose at the CIA after the tumultuous 19-month directorship of Porter J. Goss. Goss, a former Republican congressman, was forced to resign after failing to recover from a rocky start in 2004, when his top staff members clashed with agency veterans. **NYT**



**HAYDEN**

#### Fighting rages in Somali capital

MOGADISHU—Heavy fighting between Islamic and secular militia flared Saturday in the Somali capital Mogadishu, rocking the city with a surge in the worst violence it has seen in years, with no sign of a pause, witnesses said. At least 23 people were killed and 44 others wounded in two districts, where Islamic militia and fighters loyal to a US-backed warlord alliance pounded each other with heavy machinegun, rocket, artillery and mortar fire, raising the death toll and sending thousands fleeing for safety. In addition to Saturday's casualties from heavy artillery duels in the northern Galgalato and southern Daynile districts, two civilians wounded in Thursday's clashes died, pushing up the toll, medics said. "The fighting is intensifying on the Daynile side. I never seen a battle like this since 1991," said Ahmed Mohamed Ghele, a witness. The fighting, which has defied international calls for a truce, pits Islamists against the Alliance for the Restoration of Peace and Counter-Terrorism (ARPCT), which was set up in February with US backing to curb the growing influence of Islamic courts and to track down extremists, including al-Qaida members, that they are allegedly harboring. The increasingly powerful and influential courts, which have declared a holy war against the alliance—which they say is financed by the "enemy of Islam"—deny the accusations. **AFP**

#### Sharon moved to long-term care facility

JERUSALEM—Former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who has been in a coma for nearly five months, left Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem in an ambulance Sunday en route to a long-term care facility in Tel Aviv, hospital officials said. Sharon's transfer to Sheba Medical Center, a facility more suited to providing him with extended care, signaled his medical team did not believe he was likely to emerge any time soon from the coma he fell into after suffering a devastating stroke Jan. 4. Dr. Yuli Krager, the deputy head of Levinstein House, another long-term care facility, told Israel Radio on Sunday that the 78-year-old former leader's chances of waking up after such a lengthy coma were small. Sharon had a small stroke in December and was put on blood thinners before he suffered a severe brain hemorrhage in January. The Israeli leader underwent several, extensive brain surgeries to stop the bleeding, and many independent experts doubted that he would ever recover. **AP**



**SHARON**



## WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Filipinos buck  
Torre defeat to  
down Ecuadorans

/A30

## SPORTS

E-mail: [pr\\_sports@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph)

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Text as your feedback: inquirer.sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

If you don't want this



Stop Hair Loss Now.

Call Svensson at 892-HAIR

# Strange goes wire-to-wire; Pagunsan 6th

By Musong R. Castillo

## EMPHATIC.

WITH HIS PURSUERS UNABLE TO KEEP in step, Australia's Scott Strange pulled away to a five-stroke win yesterday even as Juvic Pagunsan came back from a third-round meltdown to emerge as the top Filipino in the 90th Philippine Open at Wack Wack.

The 29-year-old from Perth capped his wire-to-wire romp with a 2-under-par 70 for a 280 total that rewarded him with the largest margin of victory in the Asian Tour this year.

"I had a birdie on first and that dictated my day and the pursuers dropped out (of the chase)," said Strange, whose second career Asian Tour win, worth \$30,700, boosted him to the Top 10 of the Order of Merit with \$149,024 in earnings.

"It was pretty exhausting, the weather and all," added



"WELL WORTH IT": Australian Scott Strange shows his champion's trophy. **RUJO ESPERAS**

Strange "But it was worth it."

Korean youngster Park Jun-won rallied from 16th place with the day's best round of 67 at the famed East course and took second place at 285.

Taiwan's Lu Wei-lan shot a 71 and tied for third place with compatriot Yeh Chang-ting (75) and England's Chris Rodgers (72) at 286.

Then came Pagunsan, a two-time runner-up in this event when he was the country's top amateur. He closed out with a par 72 to wind up in a tie for sixth at 288 with Australian Unho Park (72). They won \$6,300 each (about P318,000).

Pagunsan, the winner of the The Country Club Invitational early this year on his pro debut, came within two strokes of Strange in the third round but dropped five strokes in the last three holes and fell out of contention with a 74.

Tied for third after the third round, Cookie La'O wound up in a deadlock for eighth after carding a 75 for 289, along with Aussies Gary Simpson (72) and Jason Dawes (70).

Gerald Rosales, the 2000 champion at Riviera and second placer last year, submitted a 71 and shared 12th spot with SSP Chowrasia (73) of India and Adam Porter (74) of Australia with 290 tallies. They won \$3,176 each.

Angelo Que ballooned to a final round 76 for 292, in a tie with another notable, 2002 winner Rick Gibson, who fired a 75.

"I'll absolutely be back and defend in January," said Strange, whose Asian Tour breakthrough win came in last year's Myanmar Open.

He had earlier rounds of 68-70-72. Strange scattered four birdies in his first 14 holes and bogeys on the 15th and 17th did little to slow him down.

This tournament will be the Asian Tour's kickoff leg next year with the purse to be increased to \$500,000. Wack Wack will remain as host until

Strange became the second straight Australian winner of the event after Adam Le Vesconte, who prevailed at Mount Malarayat last year. Le Vesconte fired a 71 and finished tied for 15th spot at 291.

Marvin Dumanan won low amateur honors, firing a 74 for 296 to finish four up on Jay Bayron (79). Michael Bibar wound up third at 301 after a 75.

## The final round scores

280—S. Strange (Aus) 68-70-72-70; 285—Park JW (Kor) 75-74-69-67; 286—C. Rodgers (Eng) 70-69-75-72; Lu WL (Tpe) 69-74-72-71; Yeh CT (Tpe) 69-69-73-75; 288—J. Pagunsan 72-70-74-72; U. Park (Aus) 72-71-73-72; 289—J. Dawes (Aus) 70-75-74-70; G. Simpson (Aus) 71-72-74-72; Haleh GS (Tpe) 71-73-71-74; C. La'O 70-74-70-75; 290—G. Rosales 73-72-74-71, S.S.P. Chowrasia (Ind) 74-72-71-73, A. Porter (Aus) 73-72-71-74; 291—A. Le Vesconte (Aus) 74-75-

70-71, J. Knutzen (US) 73-71-76-71, B. Hume (Sco) 69-76-74-72; 292—A. Presnell (Aus) 73-75-72-72, J. Lupprian (Ger) 72-76-72-72, G. Rusnak (US) 73-74-73-72, A. Kang (US) 72-72-74-74, M. Bohn (Aus) 73-70-74-75, R. Gibson (Can) 70-72-75-75, R. Mohr (Aus) 77-69-71-75, A. Oso 71-75-70-76; 294—M. Pucay 72-75-74-73, A. R. Zakari (Mas) 73-70-78-73, Wang TC (Tpe) 74-72-76-72, E. Salvador 78-70-71-75, U. Singh Mundy (Ind) 75-74-69-70; 295—L. Austin (Aus) 74-71-77-73, R. Ismail (Mas) 72-76-72-75, G. Mann (Ind) 73-73-72-77

## WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Wade waxes  
hot, again /A31

■ ~~Wade waxes~~  
to Nash for succor  
in Game 3 /A31



■ Taiwan spikers  
soar /A32

■ Sabal halts  
B'navista streak  
at 2; Manipol  
also rules /A32



## CARRYBOY

WORLD CLASS AUTO ACCESSORIES  
[www.carryboyphil.com](http://www.carryboyphil.com)

SIDE OPEN CANOPY

CARRYBOY PHILIPPINES INC. Sole Authorized Distributor of Genuine Accessories by Carryboy Thailand  
No. 34 Sanaga corner Macapagal St., Cebu City

0740-0525 / 30

No Games, No Gimmicks just Sure Giveaways at...

## BACK2NDAG Big Events Promo!

**DARLINGTON**  
27TH ANNIVERSARY

In Support to Bobby Pacquiao's fight with  
Kevin Kelley

Get selected Darlington and Exped Socks  
at special price plus Fanatic Gear Giveaways!



Free Manny & Bobby  
Pacquiao T-Shirt for every  
P500 worth of purchase of  
Darlington or Exped Socks

Free Manny Pacquiao  
Key Chain for every P300  
worth of purchase of  
Darlington or Exped Socks

## MECHANICS:

1. Every P 500.00 single purchase of Darlington or Exped socks, entitles a customer to a free Manny and Bobby Pacquiao T-Shirt. Every P300.00 single purchase of Darlington or Exped socks, entitles a customer to a free Manny Pacquiao key chain.
2. Customer who qualify the promo should present their original receipt to the promo girl manning the Darlington's display area inside the store of purchase to claim the free item.
3. Redemption period shall be until sixty (60) days from end of promo period.

NOW AVAILABLE  
EXPED CHARCOAL SOCKS w/ HIDDEN TOE.  
MADE FROM CHARCOAL FIBER THAT ELIMINATES BAD ODOR!

PROMO PERIOD: May 16 - June 30, 2006

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2821, Series of 2006

## GREAT DEALS OF QUALITY

## AUTOWIDE

TRUCKS, PASSENGER VANS &amp; SUVs

## BIG PRICE CUT

ISUZU 10W WING VAN  
TRUCK ALUM (Giga Type)May 18 to June 3, 2006  
Sale Starts 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Lot C Rizal Highway, Bulid Gateway, Bulid Bay Frequent Zone. Tel: (047) 352-5328  
GULLWING MOTORS INT'L CORP. #57 Among Rodriguez Ave., Santolan, Pasig City  
Tel. no.: 644-7730 Fax no.: 644-1978

www.mysautowide.com

Driving my van became smoother and  
Plus, my gas gauge didn't dip to empty

MA. THERESA LARIOSA, CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS



**2**  
PETRON  
Fuel Success



# Filipinos buck Torre defeat to down Ecuadorans

By Roy Luanan

TURIN, ITALY—THE PHILIPPINES STRUCK on the lower boards Saturday to trounce Ecuador, 3-1, and get back on track in the 37th Chess Olympiad at the Olympic Village here.

Two-time national champion Darwin Laylo and Fide Masters Oliver Dimakiling and Wesley So won their games on boards 2, 3 and 4, respectively, to compensate for the loss of Grandmaster Eugene Torre on board 1.

The Filipinos weren't as lucky, however, as they bowed to the Belarusians, 2.5-1.5, and tumbled anew in the distaff side.

Handling white, Arnyman Laylo beat International Master Daniel Mieses in 47 moves of a Colle System Opening while former La Salle star Dimakiling deftly handled black to down Miguel Medina in 43 moves of a Reti.

The 12-year-old So, an incoming high school freshman at St. Francis-Bacoor, finished off the Ecuadorians by trouncing IM Pinuo Pazos in 60 moves of a Modern Defense.

Their second victory against three draws and a lone loss to the United States (2.5-1.5) gave the 35th-seeded Filipinos 14.5 points, good for a share of 30th-39th places in the men's division now led by Armenia with 18.

Top favorite Russia fell to third with 17 points after absorbing a 2.5-1.5 beating from the Netherlands in round 6.

"Another win and we'll be in a good position," said men's skipper Sammy Esumo.

That won't be easy, though, as the Filipinos are slated to face the all-GM Icelanders, ranked 27th, in round 7 on Sunday.

Esumo will be fielding GM Mark Paragua

**Men:** 18—Armenia; 17.5—Netherlands; 17—Russia, Belarus; 16.5—Ukraine, United States, Sweden, India; 16—Uzbekistan, Georgia, Czech Republic, Israel, Cuba, Poland, Brazil; 15.5—Bulgaria, Denmark, Iran, Hungary, Indonesia; 15—Greece, Spain, China, Slovenia, France, Serbia & Montenegro, Vietnam, Moldova; 14.5—Germany, Iceland, Croatia, England, Norway, Peru, Colombia, Switzerland, Philippines, Malaysia.

**Women:** 14.5—Russia; 14—Ukraine; 13.5—Slovakia; 13—Romania, United States, India, Bulgaria; 12.5—Estonia, Hungary; 12—Mongolia, Georgia, Slovenia, Spain, Armenia; 11.5—Belarus, Latvia, Kazakhstan; 9—Iceland, Philippines, Finland, Sweden, Malaysia, Peru, Italy.

on board 1, GM Rogelio Antonio Jr. on board 2, Laylo on board 3 and Dimakiling on board 4.

Torre, who yielded to GM Carlos Franco Matamoros in 36 moves of an English Opening, will take a rest along with So, who has two wins and two draws thus far.

The 22-year-old Paragua said he'd try to exact revenge against his opponent, GM Hannes Hufar Stefansson, who bested him in their lone meeting when he was about 10 years old.

Antonio will handle black against highly rated GM Johann Hjartarson (Elo 2619) while Laylo meets GM Henrik Darulsen. Dimakiling, who totes three points on three wins and one loss like Laylo, battles GM Thorsteinn Thorhallsson.

Against 50th-ranked Finland, women's

team captain Cesar Caturba will be fielding WIM Sherie Joy Lomibao, WIM Catherine Perena and WIM Sherly Cua in that order.

Lomibao will be pitted against WIM Nina Sammalvaio and Perena against WIM Tanya Rantanen.

Perena, a senior Sports Science student of the University of the Philippines, yielded to Nadezhda Aravova while WIM Beverly Mendoza bowed to WIM Tatiana Berina as the Filipinas dropped to a share of 50th-59th places.

Cua saved the Filipinas from a shutout by drawing with WIM Anna Sharevich.

National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay is expected to arrive at the Olympic Village Sunday afternoon to boost the morale of the Philippine teams.

# Thai shuttlers just too tough for Asuncions

## Top RP pair settles for 2nd

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SMASHED TO PIECES.

That was how Thailand ended the country's badminton aspirations in the mixed doubles final of the BINGO Bonanza Philippine Open championships yesterday at the Philsports.

The world No. 11 pair of Sudket Prapakamol and Saralee Thongthongkam unleashed their finest forms to deal the country's pride, Kenne and Kennevic Asuncion, a 21-18, 21-16 decision last night to take the top mixed doubles prize of \$7,320.

The Thais kept the shuttles low then hammered it at every opportunity to spoil the Filipinos' breakthrough bid for the title in the four-star tourney.

Malaysian Hafiz Hashim, the world's No. 11, kept his brother, Roslin, at bay to secure a 21-19, 21-7 win in their men's singles showdown and clinch the biggest purse of the tournament worth \$9,600.

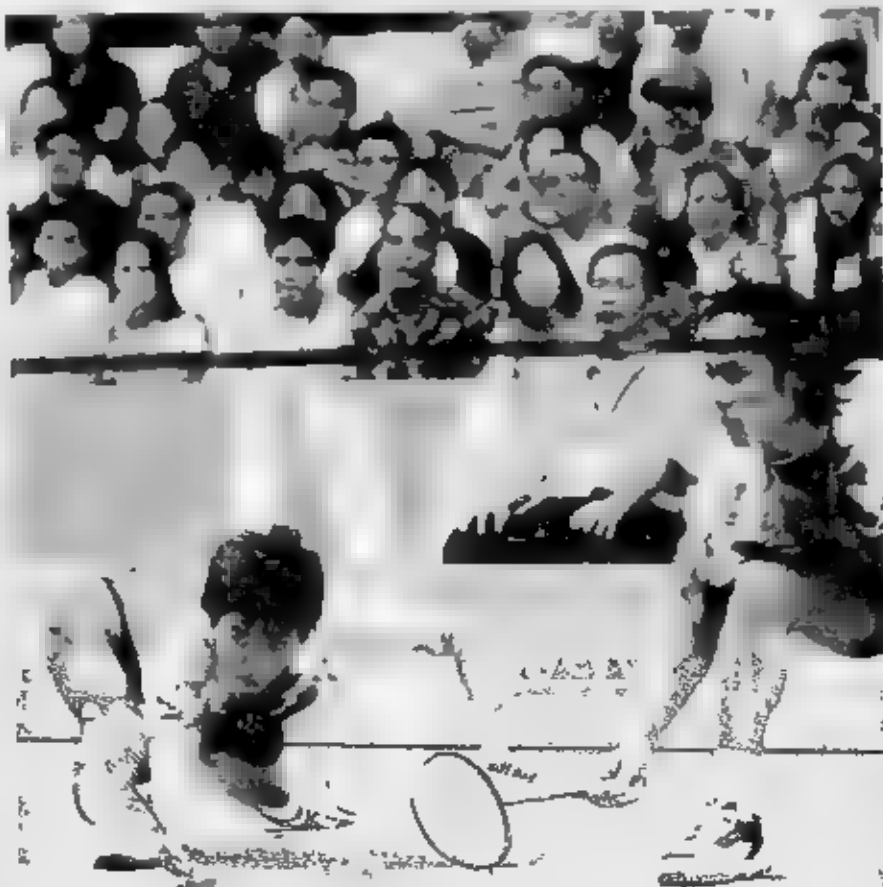
Sama Nehwal of India, only 16, finished off world No. 66 Pen Xian Julia Wong of Malaysia, 21-15, 22-20, to run away with the women's singles title.

Unranked Hong Kong shuttlers Albertus Susanto Njoto and Yohan Hadikusumo Wiratama whipped up an exciting upset victory over world 26 Hendra Gunawan and Joko Riyadi of Indonesia, 15-21, 21-19, 21-18, for the men's doubles title.

The all-Indonesian women's doubles went to world No. 21 Gresya Polu and Jo Novita, who downed Nur Sugianti Endang and Rani Mundiasri, 21-16, 21-13, in the event sponsored by JVC, PLDT and Smart.

The Asuncions, whose best finish in an international event was a bronze medal in the 2003 Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam, kept the match close but the Thais were simply better.

"We made a lot of errors but that's how the game is," said the 29-year-old Kenne, adding that it was their best performance in the three times they bowed to the Thai



SARALEE Thongthongkam lunges for the feather with partner Sudket Prapakamol (right) in their match against the Asuncion siblings. AUGUST DEACOR

pair. "We are just happy to play in front of our countrymen, they've been very supportive," said Kennevic.

The Thais wisely kept the bird low and put the hosts on the defensive early on through Prapakamol's booming smashes.

The Asuncions, who are expected to move up the world ranking from their present rating of 69, gave up nine unforced errors in the first set alone and could only make two winners the entire set.

Thongthongkam and Prapakamol net-

ted three straight returns as the Asuncions came within 18-19, but Kenne missed two kills to give up the set.

The count was 14-11 in the second when Prapakamol whipped up another of his powerful smashes to touch off the fiery windup which ended with a kill that went past the dumbfounded Kennevic at match point.

The Filipinos had earlier bundled out two Indonesian tandems, including Sydney Olympic silver winner Tin Kusranto and Minarti Timur in the semifinals.

# Soccer: Look who's betraying the Filipino youth

YOU CAN'T HELP BUT ADMIRE MARIO Schuff, the Ambassador of Argentina to the Philippines.

The portly, vibrant Señor Schuff is a concerned diplomat who doesn't hesitate to help others.

He's particularly alarmed whenever he sees something wrong going on.

He also happens to be an honest, dedicated sportsman out to spread the gospel of even development through games, mainly football.

Himself full of life, Schuff, of German descent, did not hesitate to manifest urgent concern as he noted that the Philippines has not been enjoying all the goodness and gladness available to all nations of the world through the game of soccer.

With the gloomy look of things in playgrounds around Metro Manila, a visiting sports lover would readily suspect that football doesn't exist in the country.

Or, to put it more bluntly, the universal game that's embraced and followed passionately like religion by practically all nations on the planet has yet to be invented and introduced hereabouts.

How can that be? Schuff wondered in protest.

This was last Thursday at the exquisite Cafe Ysabel on the tree-lined side of P. Guevarra in San Juan, not too

## BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad



far from the old Marcos residence.

You see, with his solid build and firm face, it's hard to imagine the ambassador shedding tears.

But you could feel the man in grief as he noted, in sheer disbelief, the continuing death of football in the Philippines.

He rued the waste of talent and untapped greatness.

He manifested alarm during the local launch by officers of ATR-Torres World's Best Wines and Spirits, headed by Dr. Ruel Reyes, of a line of Sta. Julia spirits from Argentina.

The affair, a roast-out, gaucho-style, also coincided with an Argentine national day when there's feasting all over that country.

The way Ambassador Schuff would explain, his countrymen are already setting up for the forthcoming international sports picnic, more popularly known as the World Cup, the quadrennial football championship to be played in Germany

early next month.

Brazil is the defending champion, Germany a strong favorite, but Argentina could be considered a dark horse.

"Well, we happen to have won the Olympic soccer gold in Athens in 2004," Schuff reminded with a naughty wink.

Of course, what most Filipino sports fans had not overlooked was that the Argentine national basketball team led by Manu Ginobili also won the gold medal in the Athens Olympics.

Anyway, Ambassador Schuff explained why he has been grieving over the state of football in the Philippines: If there's one people in Asia that's perfectly fit to play and excel in soccer, it's the Filipino.

Yes, he swore, the Filipino has the build, the grace, the quickness, native gifts that have made countries like Brazil and Argentina itself revered powers in the universal game of soccer.

Searching for a solution to the puzzle, the good ambassador could only shake his head in disbelief.

Why soccer is a game perfect for Filipinos, he repeated.

No need to explain the fact that, unlike in basketball where short-limbed natives have had to reach for the sky to score, the goal is just there at ground level, always

within reach, for the Filipino campaigner.

Why, why, why?

No, Ambassador Schuff did not want to condemn.

But he said something must be done to correct the sordid situation.

The government owes it to the youth of the land, to all sports-loving citizens.

In a way, Schuff must've smelled betrayal here.

"I know your football officials are getting big money from Fifa, the world football body, every year," Schuff bared.

He did not say how much, but the annual amount received by invisible Filipino officials—the names Romualdez and Adad came to fore—must have amounted to a fortune.

We say invisible football officials because they are again unseen and unheard once they have visited the bank.

There's practically no sign that something is being spent to revive soccer here.

An investigation appears in order.

Now, if the top officials of the Philippine Football Federation would at least bother to buy a coffin for the sport they've helped kill, something may yet happen to soccer in the Philippines.

Sorry, but even this sleepy government, no thanks to rampant corruption, would not qualify as pallbearer.

# Long shot takes Cojuangco Cup

By Musong R. Castillo

CARMONA, CAVITIS—THE CLOSE FINISH validated how wide open it was.

And to the consternation of oddsmakers, a long-shot colt named Don Exequiel prevailed in the kick-off race of this year's Triple Crown series at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here yesterday.

Coaxed smartly by Ronald Baldonado, the fourth-ranked Don Exequiel came up with a finishing kick that was just enough to hold off a charging field and claim the Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. Cup.

Don Exequiel, who stalked the pace-setting and besting favorite Million Dollar early, finished by half a length ahead

of Special Edition, who in turn nosed out Jet Sutter. Tigres In Action was less than a length behind Jet Sutter for fourth. Batong Silyar settled for fifth.

The win, worth P1.2 million, was the biggest for the Bench Mark out of Belle Epoque progeny, and it clearly established Don Exequiel as the horse to beat for the remainder of the series.

"He (Don Exequiel) ran a gallant race," said owner Hermie Esguerra, who named the horse after his late father. "Rarely do you find horses who run with a lot of heart."

Don Exequiel, who won the second leg of the Road to Triple Crown series in the same come-from-behind manner

last month, turned in quarter clockings of 24", 23", 25", 28 for a 1-minute-41 second clocking over the mile.

A natural stayer, the chestnut Don Exequiel was wheeled into the fight by Baldonado early as Million Dollar, the only speedball in the field, set a comfortable pace up until the mid-backstretch.

Baldonado found room when the field hit the last bend and, after dispatching Batong Silyar and Million Dollar, Don Exequiel held on with Special Edition charging from the outside.

The race was wide open that Million Dollar, the favorite, was only able to corner P253,159 out of the total pool of P866,326. Don Exequiel sold P88,993.

## NCA int'l cockfest today

THE HEAVYWEIGHTS OF PHILIPPINE COCKFIGHTING collide starting today with rivals from the United States, Canada, Japan and Malaysia in the NCA International 8-Cock Derby at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Paranaque City. The first of more than 75 world-caliber fights starts at 4 p.m. The three-day cockfest (May 28, 31 and June 2) is hosted by Rep. Iggy Arroyo, Gov. Ilo Ynares, the Sundance Group, JV Magsaysay, Filo de Guzman, Rene Medina and Firefly Group. Meanwhile, today is the submission of entries in tomorrow's Kayang-Kaya 5-Cock Derby. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1636 or 852-9812.

## Anniversary derby June 7

THE WTJ SPORTS AND AMUSEMENT CORP., OPERATOR of cockfighting and other sports events at Makati Coliseum, will present the First Anniversary 5-Cock Derby on June 7. To be sponsored by B-Meg Derby Aco, the derby dangles a guaranteed prize of P1 million. Entry fee is P25,000. The WTJ promoters Lito Onizaga, Rudy Salud and William Co expect no less

## SPORTSWATCH

than 100 fights for the derby. Meanwhile, partners Jito Alcantara and Boy Valenzuela will host a 3-cock derby this Saturday at the same venue with P200,000 in guaranteed prizes at stake. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 896-6475.

## Arnimaster 6-cocker set

WELL-KNOWN HOTELIER AND GAMEFOWL BREEDER Biboy Enriquez joins forces with equally prominent cocker and sportsman Raymond Velasco in the staging of the Frebird-Arnimaster 6-Cock Derby at the Araneta Coliseum tomorrow and on Thursday. The hosts will present more than 60 entries composed of the league's finest pit masters fielding their signature lines of gamecocks. This two-day tussle will serve as a prelude to the forthcoming World Slaughter Cup and is expected to be a burn-up fight for most of these seeing action in the WSC. Submission of weights is set from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. today and on May 31. The 43rd edition of the WSC is set on June 13, 15 and 17



# Coca-Cola Tigers gain q'finals, thwart Air21

## Federer starts Paris challenge

## Paris challenge

## Gorres outclasses Colombian rival

## Dutch battlecry lives on

## Pole-sitter Schumacher sent to back of the grid

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE



## SPORTS

## Taiwan spikers soar

## Sabal halts B'navista streak at 2; Manipol also rules

STANDINGS	W	L
China	5	0
Chinese Taipei	4	1
Kazakhstan	2	2
Thailand	2	2
Japan	1	3
Philippines	1	3
Indonesia	0	4

**GAMES TOMORROW**  
(Rizal Coliseum)  
2 p.m.—Hisamitsu Sanyo (Japan) vs. Garuda (Indonesia)  
4 p.m.—Accel (RP) vs. Tianjin Bridgestone (China)  
6 p.m.—Ranai (Kazakhstan) vs. Sang Som (Thailand)

By Jasmine W. Payo

CHINESE-TAIPEI'S EXPERIMENT ALMOST backfired as the Taiwanese struggled in the early going before slipping past Indonesia, 25-21, 25-17, 25-14, in the 2006 Asian Women's Club volleyball championship yesterday at the Rizal Coliseum.

"Our players' attitude and strength were not good," said coach Kuang Hung Lin, who steered the Taiwanese to a runner-up finish last year. "In today's game, we allowed everybody to play. It was not our normal strategy."

Lin Ching-i powered Chinese Taipei to its fourth win in five games with a match-high 15 points highlighted by eight kills and six aces.

In the second match, Thailand thoroughly outplayed a surprisingly sluggish Japan squad, 25-9, 25-10, 25-23, to level its card at 2-2.

In the tightcap, defending champion China streaked to its fifth straight-set victory with a 25-15, 25-16, 25-19 decision versus Kazakhstan.

"We expect to win our last two games," said Thai coach Chanbunchee Suttachai. "We are lucky to win because Japan didn't play well."

Team captain Sangnuang Patcharee delivered 12 of Thailand's 42 kills, while Japan could only answer with a measly 19.

Chinese Taipei returned to its dominating form by opening the third set with seven straight points, including three aces from Lin, 7-1.

Indonesia tried to remain in the game when Rahayu Rati Puspita saved a match point, but a Lin spike closed out the match.

Indonesia saved two match points in the first set, rallying behind Wenny Evtasari to close in at 24-21 after trailing at 23-15. But an error allowed Chinese Taipei to claim the opener.

## Iloilo Warriors scuttle Laguna

ILOILO CITY—THE ILOILO WARRIORS FLEXED their muscles just hard enough to crush the visiting Laguna-Sta. Rosa Pistons, 103-71, Friday night in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship at the University of San Agustin gym here. It was the second most lopsided game in the conference after the 110-74 setback suffered by the Pistons at the hands of the Valencia Golden Harvest last May 20. Rhagnae Sinco of Iloilo led all scorers with 24 points. Five others scored in double figures for the Warriors, who posted only their second win in six games. Francis Sanz added 16 points. Eldrin Senieriez had 15, while Ruel Baigos, Loreto Bautista and Paul Poral tallied 12 each for Iloilo. The Pistons of Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro and Mayor Joey Katindig absorbed their 10th straight loss.



CRESENCIANO Sabal crosses the finish unchallenged, winning by more than 4 minutes.

THE NEW BALANCE POWER RACE 2006 YESTERDAY at the Bonifacio Global City saw the changing of the guard in Philippine endurance running.

Two-time Olympian Eduardo Buenavista's streak of two Power Race titles ended as reigning Milo Marathon champion Cresenciano Sabal stole the spotlight from his friend and idol.

Sabal, who hails from Sultan Kudarat just like Buenavista, pulled away four kilometers into the 25K race and never looked back. He finished in a record time of 1 hour, 21 minutes and 19 seconds.

"Buenavista just came from BMT (basic military training) and that's probably the reason why I beat him," said the 27-year-old Sabal in Filipino.

Sabal, also a member of the Philippine Army, beat Buenavista in a race for the first time.

Cristabel Martes, the 2005 Southeast Asian marathon queen, was also dethroned by SEAG 10,000 meters winner Mercedita Manipol.

The 26-year-old Manipol, who competed in the 25K race for the first time, said Martes was also probably out of shape, having gone through the same BMT training as Buenavista.

Buenavista settled for second place at 1:25:50. Placing third was veteran Bernardo Desamito, who clocked 1:26:23, in the race supported by Planet Sports, The Athletes Foot, Air New

Zealand, Jam 88.3, Men's Health Magazine, Fitness First, Tokyo Tokyo, Rush, Bullfighter, Banco de Oro, Citibank, Vacation Club International, Viva Mineral Water, Powerade, Hero, Alaxan FR, and Powerbar.

Manipol closed 1:37:36, easily beating Martes, the 2005 Milo Marathon champ, who came in at 1:43:12. Jho-An Banayag of Davao was third in 1:43:35.

The Sabal brothers also made yesterday's New Balance Power Race a family affair as 24-year-old Elmer placed third in the 10K race and the 26-year-old Gerald finished second in the 5K run.

The Toientino sisters of Cagayan de Oro also went home big winners as 19-year-old Aileen topped the 10K race and 22-year-old Ellen ruled the 5K run. Placing second and third, respectively, in the women's 5K run were Jhanna and Jessica Marie, respectively.

Capturing the men's crown in the 10K race was former marathon king Allan Ballester. Placing second was Aley Quisay.

The men's 5K run was ruled by Ben Alejandro and placing third was Ireneo Raquin. Alejandro and Raquin helped University of Santo Tomas take the inter-collegiate race trophy.

Placing second in the 5K intercollegiate race was La Salle led by Roy Ocon and Mark Villadar.

Government Warning:  
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.



part) or email us at or [entertainment@inquirer.com](mailto:entertainment@inquirer.com). pl

Hours after the show ended, Gary was still signing autographs and chatting with



### HOW/ A2-3

**SOON TO OPEN: SM LIPA**

valid until  
**June 30, 2006**

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3007 Series of 2006

**HEAD OFFICE: #73 Ermin Garcia St., Cubao, Quezon City - 727-5293/721-0714**

BRANCHES: MAKATI - 833-4639/891-8124 • PARAÑAQUE - 829-3314/829-1970 • LAS  
PIÑAS - 800-5086/806-8802 • CUBAO - 721-0731/413-5217 • MAKIKINA - 898-  
0503/933-0976 • NOCES AVE (QC) - 372-1729/413-8722 • LAGUNA - 461-3062/413-  
7015 • MALABO, BULACAN - (044) 562-0038 • VALENZUELA - 291-2746/444-7022 •  
BIKANO - 247-8759/247-8792 • SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA - 520-0569/869-6702 •  
BASMARINAS, CAVITE - (040) 418-3437/(040) 418-3439 • BATANGAS - (043) 723-  
8761 • ANTIPOLO - 250-1518/646-2043 • CALAMBA, LAGUNA - (049) 545-1869 •  
WSAYAS AVE. (QC) - 454-2838/829-3005 • CEBU CITY - (032) 234-1120/(032) 234-  
7121 • NORTH EDSA - 371-1319/371-1458 • PASIG - 640-5381/642-6237 • CALAPAN,  
MINDORO - (043) 288-1869

**819-4** 

## SIGURADONG ON TIME!

Pinar del Rio 819-4000 • Angeles City (045) 807-1000 • Bacolod City (034) 434 1111 / (034) 441-2000 • Bacoar, Cavite (046) 417-4000 • Baguio City (074) 446-6000 • Balanga, Bataan (047) 237-0000 • Batangas City (043) 723-8000 • Binay, Laguna (049) 611-1000 • Cabanatuan, Nueva Ecija (044) 608-1000 • Cagayan de Oro (088) 726-043 • Calamba, Laguna (049) 545-3333 • Calapan, Mindoro Oriental (043) 208-1771 / 922-1010 / 926-1818  
 Cebu City (032) 254-0000 • Dagupan City, Pangasinan (075) 522-3333 • Dasmariñas, Cavite (046) 850-1000 • Davao City (082) 225-1000 • Dumaguete City (035) 276-3000 • General Santos City (083) 522-1000 • GMA, Cavite (046) 950-4000 / 920-953533 • Iloilo City (031) 336-7500 • La Trinidad, Benguet (074) 422-7111 • Laguna City (077) 771-0000 • Lipa City, Batangas (043) 756-1000 • Los Baños, Laguna (049) 536-0000 • Manila City (02) 710-0003 • Malabon, Bulacan (045) 662-1000 • Marikina City (045) 846-1000 • Naga City (054) 472-0000 • Olongapo City (047) 272-4555 • Palawan, Palawan (093) 246-1000  
 San Fernando, La Union (072) 700-1000 • San Fernando, Pampanga (045) 961-5000 • San Jose, Nueva Ecija (044) 551-0000 • San Pablo, Laguna (049) 561-3010 • San Roque, Iloilo (078) 467-0000 • Sidra, Nueva Ecija (078) 126-5000  
 Surigao (085) 211-0000 • Sta. Cruz, Laguna (049) 300-6000 • Sta. Maria, Bulacan (044) 641-1000 • Sta. Rosa, Laguna (049) 836-1000 • Tagaytay City (034) 413-3333 / 0918-416535 • Taguig (044) 406-0000 • Tamarac, Batangas (043) 776-2000 • Talin, Lucena (043) 800-1000 • Taguig City (078) 726-1000 • Ulas ng Agos, Cebu City (047) 227-3333 • Unibersidad, Pangasinan (074) 568-6000 • Urdaneta City (043) 772-1000 • Zamboanga City (092) 992-7000

**You want?  
You call.**

**g**  
FRESH BREAD  
**DELIVERY**



FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND A. LUPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

Got any big plans for the summer?

Oh, yeah!

Mom and Dad want me to get a job.

Either that or paint the basement.

So your plan is to spend the summer moping.

Mind if I use your closet now and then?

HMM....

MUKHANG NANDITO SA PAINTING NAITO ANG SIKRETO NGANG TINATAGO NG OPPOSITION

KANYA LANG MAHIRAP MAKITA YATA... ABSTRACT PAINTING TO, E! FARANG PICASSO

MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY

BY PM JUNIOR

HEY... WATCHIT, BUDDY, YOU TRY SNIFFING ME THERE AGAIN AND I'M CALLING 911!

LIGHTEN UP, LITTLE GUY... THAT'S JUST THE WAY WE DOGS GREET ONE ANOTHER

YEAH? WELL, IT'S NOT THE WAY WE HUMANS DO IT!

ABA SENNORITA, NAI-VIDEO PALA NI SENNORITO YUNG BAG-I-SCUBA DIVING NYO SA PALAWAN?

DOCUMENTARY PONG PINGARWOOD NAWIN, BROSA

IN THE WARM WATERS OF FLORIDA, A SEA MANATEE SEARCHES FOR ITS MATE...

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL

LOOK, I KNOW THE MORNING HAS BEEN A LITTLE ROUGH, BUT THINGS ARE UNDER CONTROL NOW.

IF YOU GUYS STILL WANT WAFFLES, WE COULD HAVE THEM FOR LUNCHEON.

DEAF!

MOMMY SAYS THEY TASTE BEST IF YOU MAKE THEM FROM SCRATCH.

THEN THAT'S WHAT WE'LL DO.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

SCRATCH!

EARL! DINNER!

GULP

THAT HAS TO BE A NEW RECORD.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALNAS

I KNOW, IF WE ONLY SING WELL WE'D BE MAKING A MUSIC VIDEO BY NOW.

AND BY THE TIME WE SHOW IT ON TV WE'D BE SO POPULAR PEOPLE WOULD DO ANYTHING JUST TO HAVE MY AUTOGRAPH.

YOUR AUTOGRAPH? WHAT ABOUT MINE?

OH, NO, NO, I'M THE CUTE ONE.

DAHIL SA HIRAP NG BUHAY NGAYON, PANG UMALIS NG MGA TATAY SA IBANG BANSA PARA MAGING OCW.

BUNSOY! NARITO NA AKO BALING SAUDI!

MA BAGO DA MAGPETO THIS BUNZ?

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY

YOU'RE fresh and innovative, but also conservatively traditional. You want to make the world a better place. You're intelligent; you express yourself well. Whatever you do, you're not a quitter. Obstacles do not deter you. By your mid-50s, you assume the mantle of leadership, and wear it proudly. A lovely, social year awaits you. New relationships can begin now.

Birthdate of: John F. Kennedy, 36th US president; Annette Bening, actress; Melissa Etheridge, singer.

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19): During the next three to four weeks, you'll enjoy shopping. You want to buy beautiful things for yourself and loved ones. Your ability to earn money can get a boost as well.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20): Solitude in beautiful surroundings will please you in the next few weeks. Try to squeeze in some quiet time just for you. It will refresh you mentally.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20): Today, fair Venus moves into your sign. This makes you look and feel more attractive. All your relationships will be friendlier in the next few weeks.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22): Enjoy artistic, social occasions with friends and groups in the next month. The next few weeks is one of the best times for any kind of group activity with friends and colleagues.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Your appreciation of beauty is heightened now and for the next few weeks. Visit galleries, museums, parks and art exhibits. Talk to others about philosophical and religious ideas.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Gifts and goodies can come your way during the next several weeks. You have an advantage when dealing with others. Your partner might earn a bonus. The universe wants to give you a gift!

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Today, Venus moves opposite your sign, where it will stay for the next three to four weeks. This greatly improves all your relationships, especially with partners and close friends.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your relationships with co-workers will improve in the next month. This is an excellent time to resolve any difficulties you might have with someone.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Creative activities and involvement with the arts will give you much pleasure in the next few weeks. Romantic opportunities also abound! New love could come into your life. (Wow, woo.)

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Do whatever you can to make where you live look more attractive in the next few weeks. You might want to buy something beautiful for your home.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your communication with others will improve in the immediate future. This is a good time for negotiations and for creating partnerships.

DAILY CROSSWORD

By Gloria & Larry Hanigotaky Akron, OH 6/29/06

1 partner

6 See fit

8 Actress Davis

14 Vocalist

15 Fitzgerald

16 Glamour rival

18 Plagiarist John

19 Overly stern

20 Tool for holding

21 Went ballistic

22 Overlapping ballplayer and matron

23 Plaster backing strip

24 Primary color

25 Female swine

26 Sewing trolley

31 Impudent talk

34 Grand or upright, e.g.

36 Undivided

37 Cork's country

38 Overlapping singers

42 Butterfly catchers

43 Time period

44 Checks for horses

45 Lie to pull teeth

46 Part on the Bristol Channel

49 Ruby of "Raisin in the Sun"

50 Toulon summer

51 New York City river

53 Overlapping singer and golfer

61 Character in "The Tempest"

62 Abbr. on an envelope

63 Winter drill

64 Washer setting

65 Trap in an oak, maybe

66 Major ending?

67 Chairs

68 Tarot reader

69 Shoe points

**DOWN**

1 Ropa fiber

2 Out of the wind

3 Louver

4 Judging committee

5 Consecrate

6 Hebrew prophet

7 Different

8 Submissive

9 Dark red gem

10 Large arthropod

11 Border

12 Have to have

13 Arust Warhol

21 Boca, FL

22 Old writing

25 Exhaust

26 Lubricated

27 Electrical units

28 "Over There" composer

30 Lea or Landers

31 Furiously angry

32 Goodnight girl of song

33 Intrinsically

35 Tomatoes

37 Compass dir.

38 "The \_\_\_ in the Crown"

40 \_\_\_ pro nobis

41 Take out lines?

46 Distinctive mementos

47 Drawing-room couch

48 Money-maker

50 Excrete

52 Remote receiver

53 Links norms

54 HOMES part

55 Lollibridge of "Trapeze"

56 Consumes

57 To be in Toulon

58 Division word

59 Post-it jotting

60 Has dates

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

hehe NABASA MO AM BA JONG TSISINS DATI TUNGKOL SA KARAMAHAN DAW NG MGA FRIED CHICKEN SA FAST-FOOD?

AND?

YUNG MUTATED MANOK DAW GAMIT NILA... KAND-CROSS-BREED NILA BENETICALLY SA IPS PARA MARAMI YUNG PAA... DRUM-STICK PAU KASI PHAKA-ABAB! hehe...

KADILI NANTAN YANI!

AND BAYANI! TASAAN NAMAN NILA PANGARAP NILA! BAYI DI PASCENTIPED I-CROSS-BREED 'BA SUSUNOYA' THINK MAN THINK!

ANIN'S MUTATED TIGERAWAT HUMAYITAN NANTAN!

BAG-LOLO!

LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

AND DAW ANG SINABI NI TOM HANKS KAY TOM CRUISE?

AND?!

DECODE THE DA VINCI CODE!!

E, AND NG SINAGOT NI TOM CRUISE?!

DAT'S MISSION IMPOSSIBLE!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBING

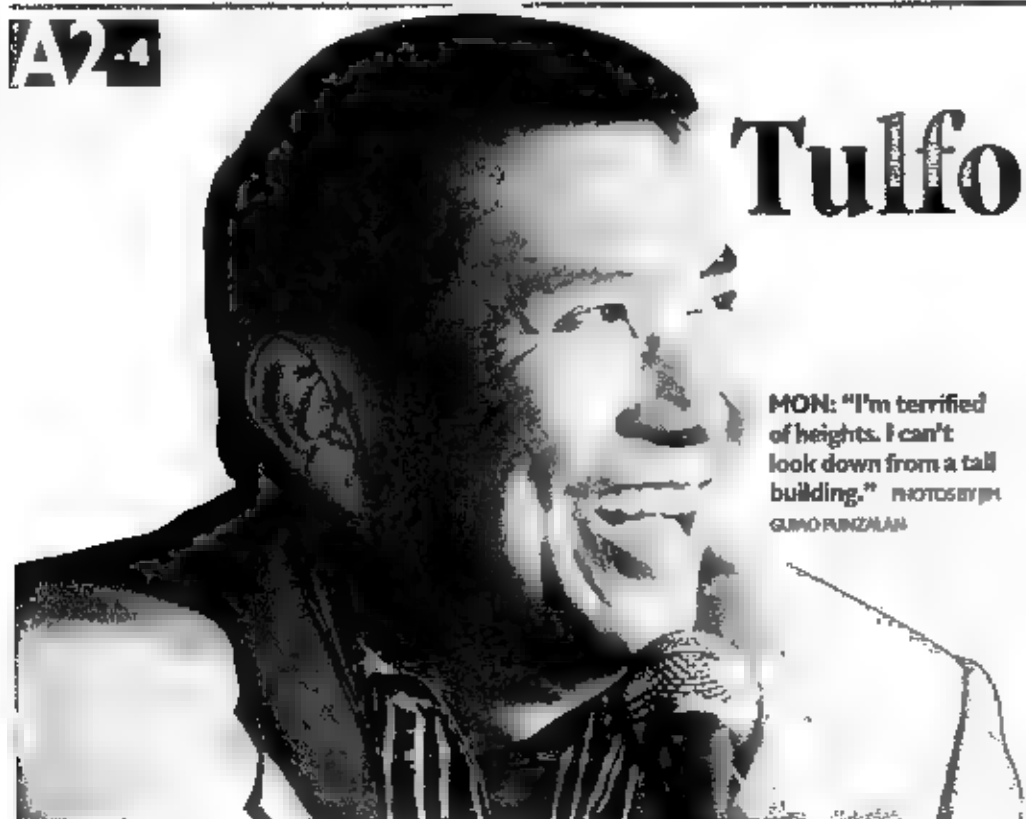
NAGBAGONG BUHAY NA AKO, TSIT, DI NA' KO AKYAT-BAHAY... MT. EVEREST NA ANG AKYATIN KO!







# Tulfo brothers too fierce for th



MON: "I'm terrified of heights. I can't look down from a tall building." PHOTOS BY JIM GUINO PUNZALAN

'We just need to show dishonest people that we're angry, so they realize that we'll really run after them'

By Marinel R. Cruz

OTHER NETWORKS refused to air our show. They said we're too forceful, too fierce for our own good," said controversial journalist Mon Tulfo.

Mon is the host of "Isangbong Mol (Tulfo Brothers)," the RPN 9 public service program that premiered on May 20. He shares hosting chores with his equally hard-hitting younger siblings Raffy and Erwin.

"If we change our style according to how those networks want it, we won't be as effective," Mon told a group of entertainment writers in a gathering last week. "I can't be of much help to our fellow Filipinos that way. Hindi na ako si Mon Tulfo."

Raffy added: "Walang sinasanto ang mga Tulfos. This is why we get death threats almost every day. That's okay. We're used to that."

According to Erwin, a TV network is always torn between profit and service when choosing public affairs programs. He explained: "If a TV channel is profit-oriented, malabnaw ang mga palabas. It's always hard to get advertisers to commit to a public service program. So the three of us seriously discussed it. Were we going to let advertisers dictate the kind of stories we would feature on our show? We decided to make a stand—for public service."

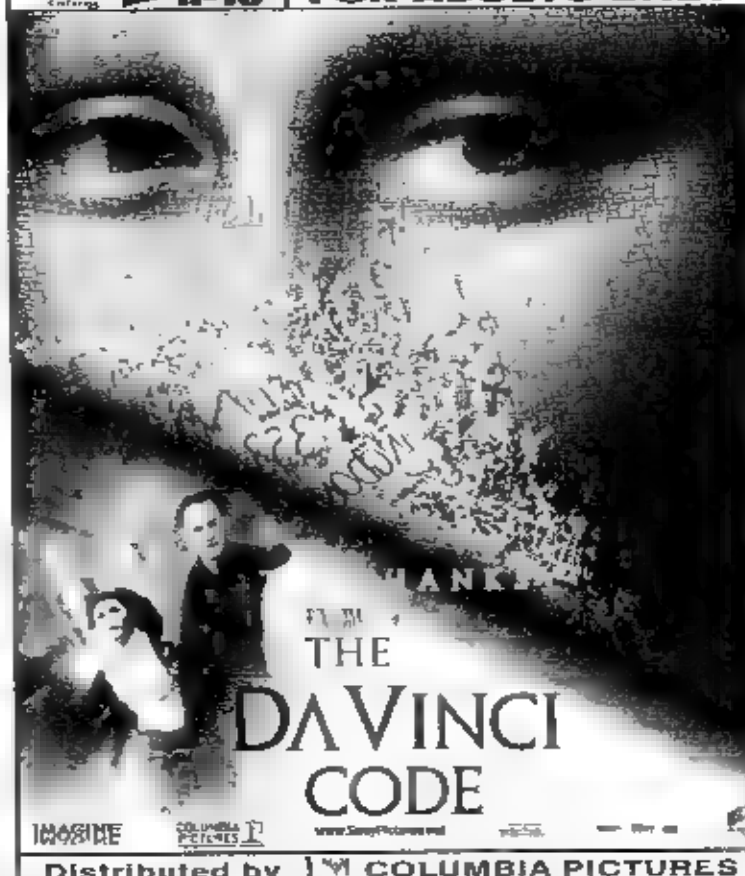
In the hour-long show, Mon tackles complaints filed against government officials and men in uniform. Raffy handles community problems, such as unfair labor practices or crises in garbage collection.

"Erwin is in charge of exposés and surveillance," Mon said. "That's his specialty."

Mon talked to INQUIRER Entertainment more lengthily.

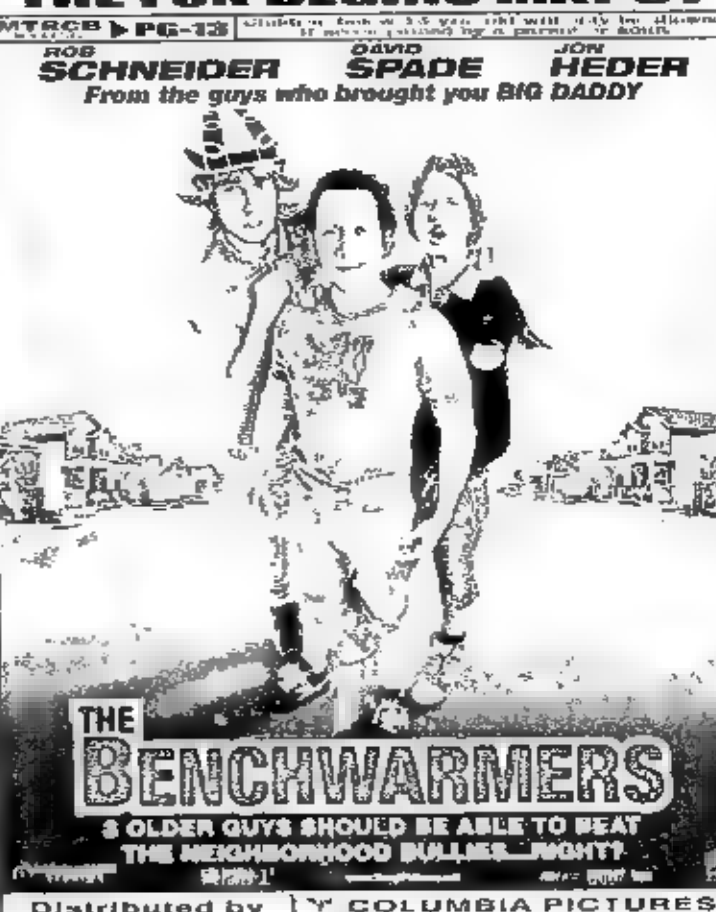
**TAKE FIVE**

THE #1 MOVIE IN THE WORLD  
**2ND WEEK**



Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

Non-Stop Laughs from Rob Schneider & the Gang!  
**THE FUN BEGINS MAY 31**



Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

**★ DANTE BASCO ★**  
**WELCOME TO MANILA!!!** **OPENS JUNE 7**

"...IT WILL ENTIRELY TOUCH YOUR HEART AND SOUL."  
—Andre White, Daily TRIBUNE

"...THE ULTIMATE MESSAGE OF HOPE THAT IS GENUINE AND STIRRING."  
—Bret Buckner, FILMSTOCK.COM

"...A CAPTIVATING MOVIE THAT MAKES YOU SMILE, LAUGH AND CRY."  
—Susan Grimes, MODAMAG.COM

**EVERY DREAM BEGINS BY TAKING ONE STEP**

**ANTONIO BANDERAS DANTE BASCO**

**TAKE THE LEAD**  
INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY

matthew mcconaughey sarah jessica parker

**PG-13**  
Children under 13 are not to be admitted without a parent or adult.

To leave the nest, some men just need a little push.

**failure to launch**

**www.FailureToLaunchMovie.com**

**IN THEATERS MAY 31**

Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation

ERWIN: "If a TV st

Who's the most among the three... Iba't iba ang a... We just need to honest people th... they realize that... after them. Mat... nasa Lugar On

Gift

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Forbes Park hon... that, along wit... cousins, he was... ing arts born

That's the w... strong tempera... thentic artistic g... on and are ev... through succe... tions, and it's m... firming to see th... ("Doubt" is di... Arespacochaga... Jay Glorioso an... za. Call Atlant... tel 892-7078)

Feedback

FROM Lea Umali... Quezon "I've re... mails d.d not sho... Code" because S... rate policy not... with an R 18 or... classification I... commend th's fi... the family-frie... May SM grow... pace with this... action. It d.d no... the great financ... incurred with th...

"Equally prai... thy is the strate... Ric Camaligan... vice president of... Leisure Inc., F... SM did not regi... its decision not... screen the film... With men act... these, I am opti... mistic that the... country will mo... forward."

Finds Super-store

STARMALL Eds... Finds Supersto... was inaugurat... on Saturday T... 2,000-square-m... ter store s open... was high-lighted... a fashion show... the exclusive... parel line of Jen... lyn Mercado, a... concert feat... Christian Bautis...

Beyond 'Posei

THE MICHAEL... Sally Field statu... yond the Posei... venture." is n... video. The stars'... ters enter the... vesse, hoping... vage rights, and... ciously find mo... vitors. But... have come ab...

**ARANETA CENTER**

**Gateway MALL Farmers Plaza**

THE ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY **Gateway Cineplex 10** FULL STADIUM SEATING

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 10:00	X-MEN 3 12:05 / 12:40 / 1:15 1:50 / 2:25 / 3:00 / 3:35 4:10 / 4:45 / 5:20 / 5:55 6:30 / 7:05 / 7:40 / 8:15 8:50 / 9:25 / 10:00	THE DA VINCI CODE 12:00 / 1:00 / 2:00 3:00 / 4:00 / 5:00 / 6:00 7:00 / 8:00 / 9:00 / 10:00	THE DA VINCI CODE 12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00
--	---	---	---

**MALL CINEMAS**

X-MEN 3 12:15 / 2:25 / 4:35 / 6:45 / 8:55 12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 8:00	THE DA VINCI CODE 12:05 / 3:00 / 5:55 / 8:50	MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: 3 12:15 / 2:55 / 5:35 / 8:15
---	---	---

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
UNRAVEL THE MYSTERY AT GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10 & MALL CINEMAS



# their own good?



ation is profit-oriented, mababaw ang mga palabas."

...t courageous  
...of you?  
...proach namun  
...now these dis-  
...we're angry, so  
...we'll really run  
...ang ako, pero  
...the other hand,

What stories would never land on "Isumbong Mo"? We'd rather not cover land disputes, money squabbles, labor-management and domestic problems. Ayaw din naming makialam sa squatter problem.

Do you remember the first time you faced the camera? What was it like?

I remember that it was a show called "Action 9." I felt very self-conscious. I didn't know what to do. I was so conscious with my being Bisaya. Matigas ang dila ko.

A director friend, Marilou Diaz-Abaya, told me to just be myself. She said "kung gahit ka, ipakita mo."

You have nine siblings. With whom did you have the biggest fight when you were young, and over what?

I never fought with Raffy, Erwin or Ben. I sent them to school. But I remember that, back then, we were so poor that we fought for food. Kung minsan, yung maliit na kapatid namin ang ninarakawan namin ng saging.

If your life were to be made into a biopic, which local actor would you choose to play yourself?

A movie outfit offered me something like that, in fact. They wanted to get Phillip Salvador. I even got paid P300,000 for that. I



RAFFY: "We get death threats every day; we're used to it."

don't know why the project didn't push through.

Which do you fear most—cockroaches, spiders or rats?

Wala sa akin ang mga yan. What I'm terrified of, is heights.

I don't know why, I'm not scared of riding helicopters or airplanes but I'm scared of looking down from tall buildings, or diving into the sea. I also don't like going up the mountains. I remember one time when we did, to hunt in the woods. Nakakita ako ng bangin. I cried. I couldn't move.

## ed thespians in 'Doubt'



and sensed some of his the perform-

...y it is with  
...ent and au-  
...nes: They live  
...en enhanced  
...ing genera-  
...ping and af-  
...connection.  
...ected by Chari  
...and also stars  
...Cately Azan-  
...Productions,

led by sinister Dr. Stefan Svevo. Peter Boyle, Shirley Jones and Mark Harmon also star.

'Echo' newscasters

IN THIS modern day and age, it's shocking to hear newscasters on local TV and radio who still report the news in the artificial, melodramatic and over-the-top style of the 1960s and '70s.

They speak with uncton, fire and brimstone, and appear to have built-in loudspeakers and "echo machines" in their chests. They also love to add extra syllables to the words they intone, particularly those that end in consonants. One freak-out evening, we bothered to jot down some of those "echo" words, and came up with this partial list:

Malabon-uh. Siyudad-ah. Malacañang-ah. Anak-ah. Senador-uh. Karapatan-ah. Militar-uh. Kaparusan-ah. Pinalatan-ah. Banal-ah.

You get the picture. The big question is, why don't these "echo" newscasters bosses tell them to stop speaking in such a dated way?

Could it be that they think the

listening and viewing public is impressed with this artificial style of reporting?

If so, they're terribly mistaken. Times have changed, people

have grown up, and tastes have become more refined and up-to-date. So, "echo" newscasters, kindly desist—and welcome to the New Millennium!

Eastwood Cinemas  
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City  
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City  
Tel: 833-2227 / 833-1818 / 833-1819

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Power Plant  
Rockwell Center, Makati City  
Tel. No. 978-1400-41

**X-MEN: THE LAST STAND**  
PG-13  
1:45, 4:05, 6:25, 8:45

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
12:00, 2:00, 4:00

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15

**X-MEN: THE LAST STAND**  
PG-13  
2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
3:15, 6:15, 9:15

**X-MEN: THE LAST STAND**  
PG-13  
1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10

Greenhills Cinemas  
Greenhills Shopping Center, Greenhills, Greenhills  
Tel. No. 722-4444

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
10:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
10:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

**X-MEN III**  
PG-13  
11:10, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
10:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

**X-MEN III**  
PG-13  
11:10, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30

MMTA  
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION  
MOVIE GUIDE  
NOW SHOWING

Eastwood Cinemas  
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City  
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City  
Tel: 833-2227 / 833-1818 / 833-1819

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Festiva Cinema  
(Manila) tel: 850-3571 or 72

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Blue Wave  
Sambag Highway cor. Noyon Rd. Marikina City  
Tel: 834-1827

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30

Cinema 2000  
Movie Theatres of the New Millennium

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50

**X-MEN 3**  
PG-13  
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40

**OVER THE HEDGE**  
PG  
11:20, 1:40, 3:50

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
R-18  
9:30, 9:30



A2-6

## ENTERTAINMENT

## Gary V's 'Relevance'

From page A2-1

his fans. He went as far as setting a date with some of them for merienda.

To the media, Gary has always been a good and pleasant interviewee. Hardly ever missing a beat, Gary

can talk through any subject, his favorites being music and Jesus Christ.

"This album took me four years to finish," he confided. "I got delayed by so many things—touring, producing,

'ASAP' [on ABS-CBN]. For a while, I also lost my songwriting skills. I don't know why. But it did come back, so here's the album."

One of the two songs he wrote for

"Relevance" is the saddest song he has ever written, according to Gary. The song is "Even While."

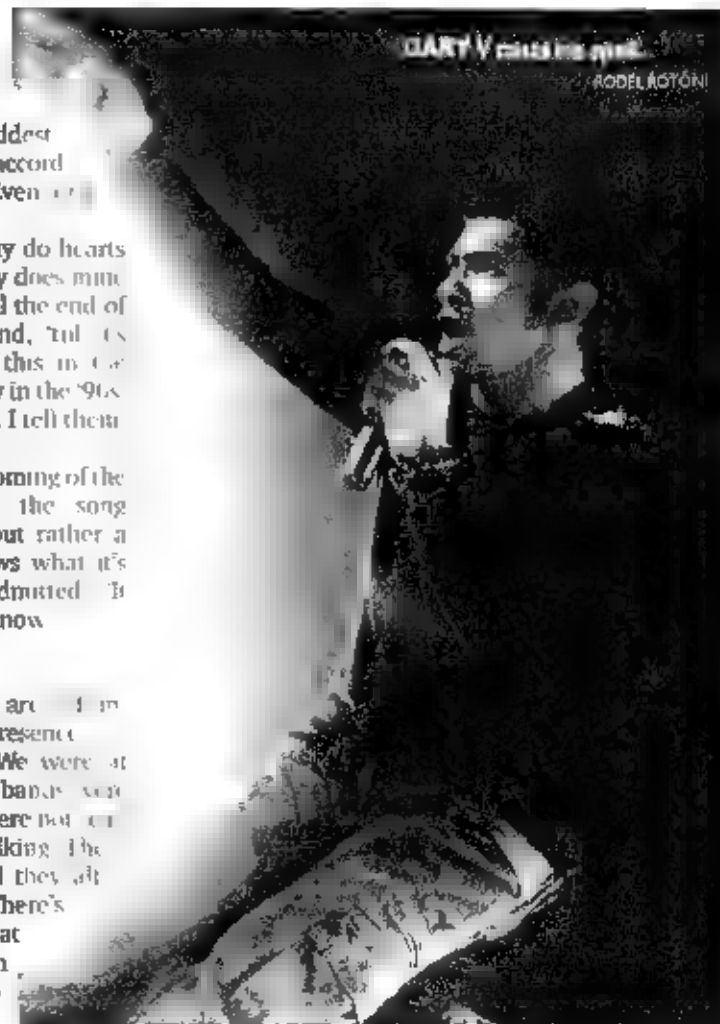
"It has words like, 'Why do hearts feel the way they do. Why does mine want to say I love you 'till the end of time, 'till I lose my mind, 'till it's over?' I started writing this in the 1980s, but finished it only in the '90s. People ask why I wrote it. I tell them 'I don't know, I just did.'"

Though sad and unbecoming of the Gary's joyful character, the song shows not a dark side but rather a sensitive heart that knows what it's like to be broken. He admitted "It was inspired by people I know."

## A kind of hush

Popular young singers are invariably awed by Gary's presence.

Lagdameo recalled: "We were at [this event] once. Some bands were performing and people were not really listening, they were talking. When Gary came on stage and they all shut up, and then wow! There's this level of attention that Gary commands, which all other artists want to reach."



GARY V. in his song "Even While." (PHOTOGRAPH BY RODEL AGON)

**OPENS MAY 31**

**The Stars of BLADE and TRANSPORTER are back in action.**

**A Deadly Cop. A Dangerous Criminal. Who will be the last man standing?**

**JASON STATHAM WESLEY SNIPES**

**CHAOS**

**THE #1 MOVIE IN THE WORLD**

break the code, witness the most controversial movie of the year!

Directed by Oscar Best Director Ron Howard and starring Oscar Best Actor Tom Hanks

**still showing**

**at Robinsons Movieworld**

galleria • metro east • novaliches • pioneer • malabon • sta. rosa • dasmarinas • imus • lipa • starmills, pampanga • angeles • bacolod • iloilo

**THE DA VINCI CODE**

MTRCB Rating: R-18

For SCREENING SCHEDULES, pls. call our CINEMA ACCESS: 835-5555 or visit us: [www.robinsonsmovieworld.com](http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com)

**AT THE CINEMAS**

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS G03 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to [www.sureseats.com](http://www.sureseats.com) for web reservations. Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For movie times, please call 729-7777.

THEATRE	1	2	3	4
G1	THE DA VINCI CODE	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	THE DA VINCI CODE	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND
G4	THE DA VINCI CODE	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND
GB1	THE DA VINCI CODE	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND		
GB3	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	THE DA VINCI CODE 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND 2:58, 5:38, 8:30, 11:38 GUARANTEED SEATS
ATC	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	THE DA VINCI CODE		
ACC	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	THE DA VINCI CODE	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	OVER THE HEDGE
M2	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	THE DA VINCI CODE	OVER THE HEDGE	THE DA VINCI CODE

**At the Activity Center**

Customer Service toll hotline: 0917 6095800  
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta 752 7272, from 10am to 8pm  
Greenbelt 752 4853, from 11am to 12pm

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Studio 23 Event May 29 to 31, 2006	Explore the world of your favorite Disney characters! May 1 to 31, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Kulokabido.com Media Forum / Celebrity Musical Production's Summertime Review 2006 May 29, 2006	Camp Read A Book Event May 29 to 31, 2006

**GREENBELT** Greenbelt 1 Shopping Street Warming Street Plaza  
May 6 to Oct. 31, 2006

**Onstage!** Repertory Philippines presents REPertory SUMMER GUARANTEES  
REP's Globe Theater - May 29, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27 & 29  
For inquiries, pls. call 987-8719

**Ayala MUSEUM** FAROLA: Colonial Lighthouses in the Philippines  
May 19 to June 18, 2006  
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit [www.ayalamuseum.org](http://www.ayalamuseum.org)

**WATCH THE #1 MOVIE IN THE WORLD**

**Ayala Malls**  
At the Cinemas

Reserve your seat by texting SURESEATS G03 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart)  
Or log on to [www.sureseats.com](http://www.sureseats.com) for web reservation

For screening schedule, pls. call 729-7777

**THE DA VINCI CODE**  
COLUMBIA PICTURES  
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R-18) (For Adults Only)

**X-MEN THE LAST STAND**

EXPERIENCE IT BEST ONLY AT

**IFX**

CLEARING SOUND: SUNDAY PICTURES, DUSTY MOVIES

Book that's THE Official Companion offer movie pass the ultimate cinematic experience.  
For screening schedule, pls. call 729-7777

**Disney • PIXAR**

**Cars**

**TRADING CARDS**

Get 1 set of Disney/Pixar "CARS" Trading cards, for a minimum of P300. Powercard load/reload.

EXCLUSIVELY AT

**TIMEZONE**

For DIS-SEC Form No. 1300 Series of 2006. See product and banners for more details.





CONDUCTING an ankling performance by the Retired Officers' Wives and Widows Association

MUSIC Lady Cora

WITH fellow Cebuano stars Gloria Sevilla and Caridad Sanchez.

# Introducing Mrs. Bonny Serrano

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Photos by August de la Cruz

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS COURTESY OF CORA REAL

UNKNOWN TO THE JEEPney drivers plying the Camp Crame-Labis route, the unassuming piano teacher that regularly avails of a senior citizen discount is Ms Bonny Serrano—also known as Visayan cinema's singing sweetheart Cora Real.

"I only pay P6," says the 70-year-old widow of a war hero. "Whenever I see the street sign [bearing my husband's name], I feel proud. I feel rich, even though I live a simple life."

Hers is wealth that money can't match, she asserts.

"A camp in Masbate is also named after him," she enthuses. "[Plus] the Philippine Navy boat PT110

## YESTERDAY

Bonny Serrano, the biggest and fastest of five boats donated by the Korean government. I asked the Navy: 'Where's my boat? I heard the widow gets free rides.'

The Navy told me it was in Mindanao chasing the Abu Sayyaf."

## Her Bonny

Col. Bonny Serrano was the most decorated Filipino soldier in the Korean War, Cora says, proudly.

His exploits were the basis of the LYN movie "Korea," directed by Lamberto Avellana and penned by Sen. Benigno Aquino. It starred Jaime de la Rosa and Nida Blanca.

"His most astonishing achievement was swimming with his troop across Yalu River in winter," Cora recounts. "His troop suffered numerous losses, but with only a five-man commando, he led the capture of 77 North Korean soldiers. If not for the Filipinos, the Americans couldn't have crossed enemy lines."

He was only 22 at the time, she recalls.

"When my husband died after suffering a stroke on Jan. 2, 1970, he only had P20 to his name," she says, sadly now.

Three months after his passing, Santolan was renamed Bonny Serrano Road.

At the colonel's wake, Cora recounts, then President Ferdinand Marcos admiringly glanced at the 48 medals on Serrano's casket and asked a journalist: "Are all those his?"

"Yes, Mr President," the writer replied, "and he earned every single one of them."

"My husband was frustrated [with the system]," Cora says. "He had been bypassed for promotions a few times because he wasn't a 'yes' man. Now, I can look anyone in the eye and proudly declare: 'I am the widow of Bonny Serrano.'"

## Equally formidable

As they say, an equally formidable woman is behind a formidable man.

Cora Real was born Corazon Rufareal to Jo Rufareal and Isabel Climaco in Cebu on May 27, 1936.

"My Mama was one of the first child stars in Cebuano movies," Cora says. Her mom is also the sister of musician and film director Jose Climaco, husband of 1940s singing superstar Lal



"TO BONNY darling, with love."



WITH President Ferdinand Marcos at Bonny's wake in January 1970.

an Velez.

In fact, Cora, at age 4, made her debut in a Luan Velez movie. "My Tiyo Joe just made me sit atop a table. That was my first movie, the title of which I can't remember."

At age 9, she started singing in radio shows like "Haranista" in the Queen City of the South. "I worked on dyBC with Nick Tumalak," Cora says. "While doing radio, I attended night school at the San Carlos University."

She also topped bills with boy tenor Merio Aznar and his family. "We had shows in Davao and Iloilo. My vocal coaches were Tiyo Joe and Manuel Velez, the father of Tiya Lilian."

The radio star also worked as dubber. "We dubbed Tagalog movies in Cebuano." She was the Visayan voice for LYN, Premiere and Sampaguita stars Norma Blancaflor, Anita Linda and Carmencita Abad, among others.

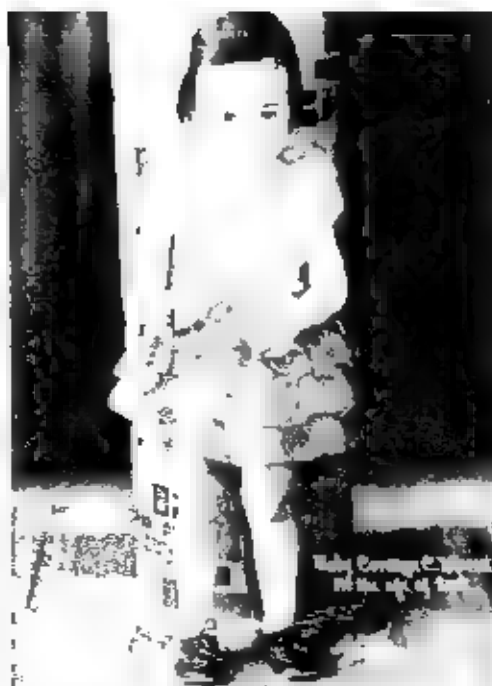
She acted in 11 Cebuano movies—debuting in Teves Productions' "Dumagsa" at age 11.

"I played the best friend of Rosita Fernandez," she remembers.

A former Miss Mindanao titlist, she later became a contract star of Azucena Pictures. "My talent fee was P500 per movie."

In 1950, the Cebuano beauty crossed over to Tagalog movies—in the LYN musical "Huni sa Gugma" or "Awit ng Pag-Ibig," co-starring Priscilla Cellona, Matt Ranillo Jr. and Jess Vestil.

Visayan singer, actress and wife of a war hero, Cora Real says music helped her survive young widowhood plus all the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune



CORA Real at age 2



SHY YOUNG actress with the glamorous Rosa Rosal

Coincidentally, Miss Mindanao's escort at the Miss Philippines pageant night was Ranillo—who later became the husband of her frequent co-star Gloria Sevilla.

Cora also acted with Gloria in Cebuano movies like "Leonora" and "Pulub Lang." Another memorable film was "Handumanan."

Cora, then 14, was on the verge of inking a contract with LYN when she met and fell in love with 32-year-old soldier Bonny Serrano—one of the country's most eligible bachelors.

She looks back. "He was wooing four other women—Miss Universe Armi Kusela of Finland, Miss Mindanao Hilda Walstrom, LYN movie queen Nida Blanca and Corazon Lazo, daughter of a general. Still, he chose me, a struggling actress."



MR. &amp; Ms Bonny Serrano

After they tied the knot, Bonny ordered Cora to quit the movies. "He asked me to choose between marriage and career, with the warning that if I chose the latter, he'd take me back to my Mama. Imagine that... like a parcel marked 'Return to Sender!'"

For over a decade, Cora contentedly stayed in the sidelines and gave her husband three children—Audie (now, 50 years old), Bong (or Bonny Jr., 49) and Johanna (39).

Her husband treated her "like a princess," she says.

## A widow at 30

Then, all of a sudden, her world came crashing down.

"I got married at 15 and was widowed at 30," she remembers. "I thought my life would end, too. I thought of slashing my wrists. I cried all the time. I was raising three children and my monthly pension [from the military] was only P658.12."

Music saved Cora from the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. "I started doing shows and concerts again. I even worked as a singer in Japan for two years."

In the early 1970s, she co-starred in "Basta Busaya," "Pobreng Amdahaw" and "Little Romeo and Juliet"—movies produced by bosom buddy Gloria Sevilla.

Later, she taught physical education (stimmatics, aerobics, ballroom dancing and dancercise), voice, as well as piano, at the YWCA for 15 years.

For her musical gift, she is eternally grateful to grandmother Gerarda Climaco, who taught her piano, and Tiya Lilian, who bequeathed to her precious pyxias (music sheets).

Music continues to sustain her through these tough times.

"Recently, I learned that the military would soon deduct P2,700 from my monthly pension for the next 20 months," she sighs. "I was disappointed."

Fortunately, she has more pleasant things on her mind.

She is the official conductor and pianist of the Retired Officers' Wives and Widows Association. "Most of our members are in their 70s and 60s, but they've remained active because of music."

Recently, she played the piano in Ma-a-cañang, accompanying classical singer Gamaliel Viray in a show for the diplomatic corps.

She still teaches voice and piano. Among her students are nuns, a mentally challenged man and a blind girl.

"I can teach anyone to sing," she quips. "I'm very patient and persistent."

Yes, indeed. For her students, she is happy to ride the jeepneys that traverse the road named after the hero who was her loving, and beloved, husband.



TODAY, with daughter Johanna, son Bonny Jr. and grandson Joaquin.

COL. BONNY S. SERRANO RD.  
NATIONAL ROAD







# BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Text or your feedback: [inquirer.biz.name@city/message](mailto:inquirer.biz.name@city/message) to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: [pr\\_business@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:pr_business@inquirer.com.ph)

ThinkCentre E50

Employee Purchase Program

Now you can have your very own ThinkCentre for a low introductory price of P42,480.11!

INTEGRATED COMPUTER SYSTEMS, INC.

Tel. 662-2727-8881

[www.ics.com.ph](http://www.ics.com.ph)

## PNOC unit to go public in September

### IPO to cover firm's P7-B funding requirement from 2006 to 2009

By Abigail L. Ho

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL CO.-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORP. (PNOC-EDC) will be selling 30-40 percent of its shares in the local bourse by September, junking a block equity sale model for its privatization.

Eduardo Mañalac, president and chief executive of PNOC-EDC parent firm PNOC, said the PNOC-EDC board and privatization committee recently approved the privatization plan.

The next steps would be to secure the approval of the PNOC board, and then of the Privatization Council.

These approvals should be in place within this week, he said.

"The intent or hope is to complete the (initial public offering) by the start of September. We want to get it done quickly," he said.

The range of 30-40 percent was put in place, he said, to allow some room for adjustment, depending on

how the market would react to the offering.

Mañalac said the financial adviser for the deal, CLSA Capital Partners, expected some foreign cash to come in.

Part of the IPO proceeds would be used to address "bullet" payments for some PNOC-EDC build-operate-transfer (BOT) contracts failing due some time in the third quarter, he said.

This would amount to between \$40 million and \$50 million, he said. The next big payment, around \$90 million, would have to be made in 2009.

PNOC/B4

### WHAT'S INSIDE

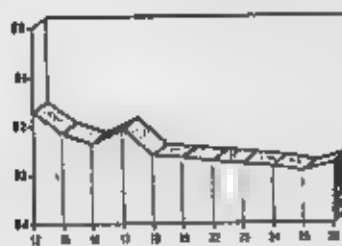


**MVP's most valuable party** /B2

**Asia urged to curb reliance on US for growth** /B8

**Packaging firm defaults on debts, say banks** /B12

### INDICATORS CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 52.78 = \$

As of 5 p.m., May 26, 2006

Y 111.96 = \$

As of 5 p.m., May 26, 2006

### STOCK MARKET

#### Technical rebound seen

SHARE PRICES ARE EXPECTED to rebound this week after getting pummeled the past weeks due to interest rate jitters.

"However, the upside may be limited as some fund managers are still in a profit-taking mode. It will be a technical rebound within

a correction of a long-term up-trend," AB Capital Securities said.

The PSEI lost 55.36 points or 2.36 percent to 2,300.89 last week.

AB Capital Securities said in its weekly note to clients that global markets continued to roll from

TECHNICAL/B4

Summer is the perfect time to get an Innova for the whole family.

- Low monthly for as low as **P8,596\***
- Toyota Value Certificate worth **P25,000**

\*2.0 J MT Model at 50% downpayment, 60-month term

## INNOVA

A Beautiful evolution

[www.toyota.com.ph](http://www.toyota.com.ph)

Promo runs until May 31, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2997, Series of 2006.

TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES: 854-8500  
 TOYOTA DEALER NETWORK: TOYOTA ALABANG, INC. 800-0801 to 32 / 802-1991 TOYOTA BACLING CITY, INC. 444-1811 to 13 TOYOTA BANGALIPAN CITY, INC. 447-8051 / 8074-300-2273 to 74 / 8074-300-4128 / 3025 / 8074-443-6778 TOYOTA BALINTAWAN, INC. 356-5501 to 08 / 354-547 to 10 / 354-4071 to 75 TOYOTA BALINTAWAN NORTH, INC. 927-7219 to 17 / 30 / 38 / 927-7242 to 44 / 48 / 52 / 927-7257 / 52 / 55 / 927-7266 / 85 TOYOTA BATAANGAS CITY, INC. (043) 723-7308 / (043) 723-7639 TOYOTA BICATAN PANAMAQUE, INC. 777-3500  
 TOYOTA CAGAYAN CITY, INC. (044) 453-5487 to 9 TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC. (0922) 735-770 / 781 / 846 / (088) 858-9994 / (088) 858-7770 / (0882) 737-488 TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC. (032) 550-1561 TOYOTA CEBU MANDALAY, INC. 548-3170  
 TOYOTA COMINTHEVALU, INC. 952-1021 to 27 TOYOTA CUBAO, INC. 91-0857 to 83 TOYOTA DADUPAN CITY, INC. (075) 517-2026 to 78 / (075) 522-677 / 57347-4773 TOYOTA DASMARANAS CAPITOL, INC. 850-2036 / (040) 858-2209 TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC. (082) 234-9998 / 1082-234-2994 / 1082-234-8640 TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC. (033) 320-8115 to 8 TOYOTA MAKATI, INC. 687-3333 TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP. 832-3432 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 882-3437 TOYOTA MARIKINA SERVICE STATION 682-0781 to 03  
 TOYOTA OTH, INC. 684-1211 to 20 TOYOTA PASIG TANGO, INC. 883-8884 TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC. 712-5081 to 05 TOYOTA SAN FERNANDO, INC. 9451-9611-1188 TOYOTA SORONG, INC. 530-4132 / 532-8428 / 534-3093 (includes) TOYOTA SHAW-CERTINAS 621-8854 to 61 / 811-0800

Because you deserve more for your US Dollars...

Amount of Placement	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	180 Days	360 Days
\$1,000 to less than \$10,000	4.05%	4.10%	4.35%	4.35%	4.45%
\$10,000 to less than \$50,000	4.45%	4.45%	4.75%	4.75%	4.85%
50,000 and above	4.95%	5.00%	5.10%	5.25%	5.35%

Rates quoted are subject to change without prior notice.

For branch near you, call (02) 521-7451 or 523-7777 loc.162

Maybank is a PNC. Deposits insured up to P250,000

**Maybank**



## MVP's most valuable party

WITH NO LESS THAN CORAZON Aquino and Cardinal Rosales leading the Manila guests, Manuel V.

Pangilinan on Thursday celebrated with his Indonesian principals the 25th anniversary of the First

Pacific Group in Hong Kong in a star-studded dinner-concert.

And, in a testimony that all is well after the foiled Gokongwei bid for PLDT and Metro Pacific strained relations between MVP and the Salins, First Pacific chair Anthoni Salim toasted the PLDT chair before the Filipino guests and his father, First Pacific and Indofood patriarch Soedono Salim, saying that MVP was like a "brother" to him.

The Prietos of the INQUIRER, the Belmontes of Star, GMA-7's Guberto Duavit Jr., and the PLDT

## COCKTAILS

Victor C. Agustin



board were among the guests flown in by business class from Manila.

Outgoing PLDT board director, SM heiress Teresita Sy, also attended the affair, as well as Benguet Corp. chair Benjamin Philip Romualdez, accompanying his wife, INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto.

No Filipino politician or government official was invited, except for Sen. Francis Pangilinan, in his capacity as chaperon to his megastar wife, Sharon Cuneta, a PLDT talent.

With Martin Nievera emceeing, Sharon Cuneta, Kuh Ledesma, Zsa-zsa Padilla, Laru Misalucha, Kris Aquino, Mon David and Christian Bautista turned the overflow

ballroom of the uppy hotel into a Philippine-style festive event.

Guests, including former First Pacific/Metro Pacific executives Vicente Tinsay and Ricardo Pascua, who could no longer be accommodated at the Four Seasons, were booked at the nearby Ritz-Carlton.

To celebrate the returning fortunes of the Hong Kong-based conglomerate, the driven First Pacific executives were each awarded a gold ingot, in numbers enough, according to the muschuevous grapevine, to perk up the Hong Kong gold market that day.

MVP himself, First Pacific and PLDT board member Ambassador Albert del Rosario announced, had been conferred by President Macapagal-Arroyo with the Order of Lakandula award, rank of Komandante, on account of the remarkable turnaround and the subsequent improved tax contributions of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone group.

If the record earnings of PLDT/Smart/Philnet continue this year, what kind of corporate celebration could be forthcoming when MVP turns 60 in July?

**Peso and the Big Mac index**  
THIS year's installment of the Big Mac index shows that the Philip-

pine currency is—despite this year's appreciation—still 48 percent undervalued compared to the US dollar.

Developed by the Economist magazine 20 years ago using the US homeland price of Big Mac as base, the index compares the local prices of the hamburger in US dollar to provide a tasty, if somewhat fat-inducing, measure of the purchasing power parity of the different national currencies where the McDonald's hamburger restaurant chain has a presence.

In contrast, the Indonesian Big Mac, in US currency at May 22 exchange rates, is slightly cheaper, at 49 percent; Hong Kong and Thailand, -50 percent; Malaysia, -51 percent; Macau, -55 percent, and China, -58 percent.

Unlike during the Erap years when the peso was trading at the P56 level and the Philippines consequently had the cheapest Big Mac along with China, dollar-wise, it is now slightly easier on the pocket to wolf down the same burger in Hong Kong, despite the territory still being one of the world's most expensive cities.

## Money-go-round

EXCEPT for president/CEO Ramon Sy, who turns 76 this year and who has expressed his intention to retire, the rest of the top iBank management officials will be integrated with Union Bank, post merger.

MVP/BA

**WE'LL FIX IT FAST!**

Authorized wholesaler of Hewlett-Packard peripheral products

**GUARANTEED SERVICE RESPONSE**

Main Office: Lower Ground, David 1 Building, 667 Shure Blvd., Mandaluyong City  
Tel. Nos.: 725-7031 / 724-5823 / 723-4884  
Sales Office: LG UNIT 18, STAR CENTRAL BLDG., SM & PUVAT AVE., COR. MALABAY ST., MAKATI CITY  
Tel. Nos.: 892-0718 / 892-7585

Call **ELITE's** New No. 722-8888

**Canon**

Unit can be hooked-up to a computer

PC connection capability

Same price in Metro Manila, Cebu & Davao

**Superior Copy Quality**

**Better Price Better Service**

4-in-1: Printer, Copier, Scanner, Fax P28,900

3-in-1: Printer, Copier, Scanner P26,800

3-in-1: Laser Printer, Digital Copier, Color Scanner P18,995

**DEALERS ARE WELCOME**

**ELITE** MACHINES INC.

1455 Golden Building, E. Rodriguez St. Ave., Quezon City  
Tel. 722-8888

1455 Golden Building, E. Rodriguez St. Ave., Quezon City  
Tel. 722-8888

1455 Golden Building, E. Rodriguez St. Ave., Quezon City  
Tel. 722-8888

1455 Golden Building, E. Rodriguez St. Ave., Quezon City  
Tel. 722-8888

**Preferred Dollar Plus**

Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts

Investment Funds of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Valuation Date 05/25/2006	Valuation Date 05/25/2006
PLAC Dollar Bond Fund	US\$ 1.097	US\$ 1.175
PLAC Global Bond Fund	US\$ 1.083	US\$ 1.072

These investment funds are subject to variable life insurance contracts and are not guaranteed. Actual results may differ from those shown. All insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

# KILL ARTHRITIS IN 5 MINUTES

**INSTANT PAIN KILLER DEVICE**  
**NISSEI NERVE STIMULATOR**

Stops ARTHRITIS in minutes  
No Pills, No side effects  
Ideal for Rheumatism, Gout and

Also for Stroke / Paralysis Therapy at home  
Handy and battery-operated

**FAR EAST MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**

SM MALL OF ASIA, 2nd Fl., South Wing, 556-0207  
417-8286

SM MEGAMALL, 5th Fl., Bldg. A, 636 0436  
418-7540

SM NORTH EDSA, 3rd Fl., Bldg. A, 453 3326  
435-5061

**AS LOW AS P250 OFFICE EQUIPMENTS REPAIR ALL BRANDS**

FAX MACHINES, TYPEWRITERS, PRINTERS, MONITORS, CALCULATORS, & OTHER ELECTRONICS EQUIPMENTS

**15% DISCOUNT**

**FAX REPAIR**

444 Ayala Rd., 844-2338  
444 Ayala Rd., 844-2338  
444 Ayala Rd., 844-2338

**HK SUN PLAZA HOME DEPOT**

**INNOVATION & EXPERTISE COMBINED**

**HK SUN PLAZA Home Depot**

The largest home depot in the Philippines. 4.4 hectares of Home Depot inside a total area of 6.4 hectares. 400 stall spaces available. More than 1000 parking spaces. Estimated 10,000 shoppers daily. Surrounded by 50 restaurants including famous fast-food chains. 10-15 minutes away from downtown Manila, port area, airports and financial districts. Government facilities like DFA, NSO, Pasyang PNB Head Office, Senate Bldg. surround it. 16 new high rise buildings just beside the home depot.

**CW Manila Bay Dev't Corp.**

Branches in Cebu, Ortigas, Alabang & Macapagal Avenue. Specialist in Home Depot Operation. Expert on Home Depot Strategy and Management.

**40% Slots Leased Out! RESERVE NOW!**

CALL US AT: 832-2899, 832-9479 / 834-8899

Look for Jona, Anne, Kala

Call **ELITE's** New No. 722-8888

**intimus** The World's No. 1 Shredder Company

**A VITAL PART OF YOUR SECURITY**

We have units from the smallest personal shredders to the biggest commercial shredders!

**Let INTIMUS eat your secrets!**

**10 years WARRANTY**

Applies FRACTURE on Cutting Blades exclusively on models with 10 years warranty

**NEW** From the maker of Intimus shredders, comes the new MY shredder range

**DEALERS ARE WELCOME**

**ELITE** MACHINES INC.

1455 Golden Building, E. Rodriguez St. Ave., Quezon City  
Tel. 722-8888

1455 Golden Building, E. Rodriguez St. Ave., Quezon City  
Tel. 722-8888

1455 Golden Building, E. Rodriguez St. Ave., Quezon City  
Tel. 722-8888

1455 Golden Building, E. Rodriguez St. Ave., Quezon City  
Tel. 722-8888

Losing your cool?

Do you want to troubleshoot with confidence?

Do you want to unlock the secret to your company's growth?

# PROBLEM-SOLVING AND DECISION-MAKING

June 20 - 22, 2006  
Mandarin Oriental Hotel

Customers who don't complain just end up buying from someone else. But often we get irritated when they start pestering us about some complaint or another. Learn how to deal with them properly by preparing mentally and emotionally knowing the "do's and don'ts," and managing unproductive behaviors. Develop proactive listening skills to help diagnose problems faster and maximize the opportunity to gain customer loyalty in a complaint situation. With Handling Complaints you will:

- Be prepared emotionally and mentally to deal with complaints as they arise
- View customer complaints as a means to recover customer goodwill
- Avoid being negatively affected by the customer's anger
- Read the signs of angry customers at the earliest possible time
- Avoid fight-provoking phrases
- Dispute anger with the right words, tone of voice and behaviors
- Listen proactively in order to discover a solution to the customer's concerns
- Create solutions acceptable to both the customer and the company
- Quickly rebuild rapport with the customer
- Follow through to make sure all agreements and commitments are delivered
- Preserve and strengthen your relationship with the customer

Customers aren't nuisances to your job, they are your job.

This program was designed for sales and service personnel, customer service officers, customer relations officers, account officers, receptionists, secretaries, office clerks, and frontliners who want to improve their customer relations skills.

Leadership is about taking control of situations that arise. Learn about the nature of problem-solving and patterns of thinking. Assess your options, make rational choices, and address potential threats. With Problem Solving and Decision Making, you will:

- Focus problems and make decisions with renewed confidence
- Reinforce your authority and credibility with proven problem solving and decision making techniques
- Analyze situations more comprehensively to arrive at the best solution
- Anticipate potential problems, assess risks and weigh alternatives to come up with the best decisions and solutions
- Tackle problems and make decisions more systematically and logically
- Harness support mechanisms that will give rise to better solutions and decisions
- Communicate decisions to team members to reinforce your power, authority and credibility
- Consistently implement and follow-through on decisions
- Overcome obstacles and resistance to "unpopular"

Leaders don't wait for things to happen. They make things happen.

This program was designed for supervisors, line leaders, section heads, logistics managers, operations managers, sales managers, and all other members of the management team who wish to improve their problem-solving and decision-making skills.

Your company need not move at a lumbering pace. You can combine the energy and inspiration of entrepreneurship with the experience and resources of a large firm. Learn the best practices of entrepreneurial companies and shift from being managers to intrapreneurs. Assess your company's readiness and form high-performance teams to handle new ventures. With Corporate Entrepreneurship, you will:

- Understand how corporate entrepreneurship revitalizes businesses for superior growth
- Shift the mindsets of your team from problem-solving administrators to opportunity-seeking, innovation-driven intrapreneurs
- Discover how winning companies have benefited from assimilating the "best practices" of entrepreneurs
- Create and sustain an organizational culture that fosters innovativeness and creativity
- Create a framework to develop an effective intrapreneurship program for your company
- Form creative and independent venture teams that contribute significantly to the company's bottom-line

The key to jumpstarting your business!

This program is for executives, managers, or professionals in the business organization who want to unlock, enter, and embrace the entrepreneurial approach to bring out amazing results.

**Y26 Years**

**Guthrie Jensen**  
CONSULTANTS TO MANAGEMENT  
SHARPER SKILLS FASTER RESULTS

For inquiries and reservations call

Aris, Caroline, Diane, or Yessa at 892-7559, 894-0445, or 892-7041 or visit [www.guthrie-jensen.com](http://www.guthrie-jensen.com)

7/F Glass Tower Bldg., Carlos Palanca Jr. St. Legaspi Vill., Makati City

Call us if you want to customize a program for 10 or more people.



## Persistent criticisms against BIR chief alarm business groups

**LEADING BUSINESS-**men and several business groups, have warned against an apparent smear campaign against Commissioner Jose Mariano Buñag of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), saying a vilification campaign "is unfair, unnecessary and counterproductive."

The Tax Management Association of the Philippines (TMAP) said there appeared to be "a sustained effort to project the April revenue collection figures as a dismal failure despite the actual improvement in collection performance levels."

There had been many shortfalls in the past but this was the only time that we were seeing a BIR chief being crucified loudly in public for an alleged collection failure, the group said.

TMAP president Clarissa Arguelles also expressed concern over an apparent effort to project Buñag as "a bureaucrat hanging on to his seat desperately."

We cannot understand why it was being made to appear that the BIR chief was under threat of being fired by the Finance Secretary due to the April collection figures, she asked.

"If there is a need to bring in a new BIR chief due to political pressure, why don't they just ask Buñag to go quietly and we are sure he will just be happy to go," she added. The prolonged public drama on the April collection figures and the threat of removing Buñag was causing anxiety in the business community, Arceles explained.

Other business groups earlier cautioned the government against replacing Buřag "so as not to upset the gains achieved by the country in terms of investor confidence."

## Audit of tax deductions pushed

**By Michelle V. Remo**

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue has been urged to step up efforts in auditing the taxable income declared by corporate taxpayers following the release of a study hinting that over-declaration of allowable deductions may have become rampant.

The National Tax Research Center (NTRC), tasked to conduct tax-related studies, said in a research paper that on average, allowable deductions claimed by sample corporate taxpayers reached 70.54 percent of their gross income. This left a very low amount of base that the BIR could tax.

NTRC said a significant number of sample firms exceeded prescribed ceilings on allowable deductions that could be claimed. It said 13 percent of 494 companies declared deductions for "entertainment expenses" whose amounts breached prescribed ceilings, and that 23 percent of

**AUDIT/BS**

## Mitsubishi Adventure Owners Celebrate!



## Mitsubishi's

**1 Winner for the  
50,000th  
Adventure!**

**5 winners of \$50,000 each**

**Free!**  
Commemorative  
**Sticker** with  
Adventures in Time

# ADVENTURE celebration!

**Plus! Free  
16-point  
check-up!**



We are giving away the 50,000th Adventure unit, absolutely free! Open to all Adventure owners: simply register and qualify by taking advantage of the free 16-point check-up; or by availing of an Adventure through our Easy-Own Plans.

**It's our way of thanking you for your continued patronage.**

**Join the celebration now!**



Model	SRP	Low D/P	24 mos.	36 mos.	48 mos.	60 mos.
Adventure GLX Gas	733,000		30,491	21,729	17,399	14,969
Adventure GLX Diesel			31,739	22,618	18,100	15,582
Adventure GLS Sport Gas M/T	830,000	84,500	34,526	24,604	19,690	16,950
Adventure GLS Sport Gas A/T	883,000	112,450	36,731	26,175	20,947	18,032
Adventure GLS Sport Diesel 1700 turbo 1	830,000	79,500	34,526	24,604	19,690	16,950
Adventure Super Sport Diesel Std.	871,000	120,650	36,231	25,820	20,662	17,787

50% O/P	12 mos	18 mos	24 mos	36 mos	48 mos	60 mos
366,500	30,542	21,291	17,004	12,117	9,697	8,348
381,500	31,792	21,194	15,896	11,711	9,371	8,067
415,000	34,583	23,056	18,445	13,145	10,519	9,055
441,500	37,833	25,894	20,674	14,733	11,790	10,150
415,000	34,583	23,056	17,292	12,978	10,386	8,941
435,500	38,174	26,127	20,847	14,856	11,889	10,234

\* Figures in bold represent ZERO Interest Plans. \* All plans subject to bank approval.

1. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1997, 34, 1, 1-14.

\* 10% Down Payment for Adventure GLX Del. + 50% Down Payment for Adventure GLX Del.

**See your nearest Mitsubishi dealer now!**

Promo runs until May 31, 2006 only.

For DTICR Form No 1349, Series of 2000



**MINI**  
**MOTORS**



**Enjoy mobile computing  
at a price you can afford!**

**Empriva 360SX**

Intel® Celeron® Mobile  
Intel® Celeron® M Processor 370  
(1MB L2Cache, 1.50GHz, 400MHz FS8)  
Wireless PCI Card 802.11 b/g  
Microsoft® Windows® XP Home  
Microsoft® Works  
256MB 333MHz DDR Memory  
40GB Hard Disk Drive  
14.1" XGA TFT Display  
SiS 64MB Shared Video  
24x DVD+CDRW Combo Drive  
Integrated Web Camera  
10/100 Mbps LAN  
Integrated 56k Modem  
2x USB 2.0  
46-cell Lithium Ion Battery up to 2 hours  
2.5kg

**0%**  
INTEREST

**P3,333.<sup>25</sup>/mo.**

\*0% interest for 12 months applicable on major credit cards

**SRP P39,999.00**

NEO recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional

For more information, dial **633-NEO2 (833-6362)**

Promo period is from April 15 to June 30, 2006. Per DTI-MCR Permit #0864, Series of 2006.

Celeron, Celeron Inside, Centrino, Centrino Logo, Core Inside, Intel, Intel Logo, Intel Core, Intel Inside, Intel Inside Logo, Intel SpeedStep, Intel Vii, Pentium, Pentium Inside, Pentium Inside, Xeon and Xeon Inside are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries.



## Development with equity

LAST WEEKEND, SOME 50 PROJECTS proposed by various NGOs all over the country won funding averaging a million pesos each in the second Panibagong Paraan competition. This is the local version of the World Bank's regular "Development Innovation Marketplace," which is spearheaded by the institution in co-operation with numerous partners in a number of countries around the world, including at its head office in Washington D.C. Pooling together resources from numerous local and international funding partners, the competition brings together the best ideas from the nongovernment sector for initiatives to help uplift Filipinos' lives. The theme for this year's competition was Development with Equity, in line with the theme of the World Bank's last World Development Report.

### Micro and macro

The various NGO project proposals competing for the Panibagong Paraan funding support represent micro-level initiatives that would pursue development with equity at the grassroots or community level. To set the tone for the weekend affair that showcased the various competing projects, I was asked to speak along with DSWD Secretary Esperanza Cabral and Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo on the competition's theme. Secretary Cabral described the government's current efforts to combat poverty spearheaded by her department, particularly through the Kalahi-CIDSS program. Mayor Robredo shared his numerous exemplary initiatives for his city that have won him Hall of Fame status in the annual Gawad Galing Pook award, among many other local and international awards he and his city have earned.

I spoke on how to get out of the narrow, shallow and hollow development outcomes that we have tended to achieve through the years. To my mind, this challenge entails four major thrusts: SME promotion, empowering LGUs, harnessing NGO-business-government partnerships, and putting highest priority on education reform.

### Clearing SME hurdles

Many of us now recognize that the big business-dominated economic growth path we have tread on in the past decades brought us to our current situation of inequitable development. In the past year alone, large corporations posted hefty double-digit, even triple-digit growth rates in their net profits, even as hunger reached record highs and human development indicators especially on nutrition and education further turned for the worse. Our economic production has been subject to the familiar 80-20 rule: 80 percent of the economy's output comes from the largest 20 percent of our productive enterprises. I have long held the view that if we are to create at least a million jobs every year to gainfully employ the same number of new workers who enter the labor force annually, these jobs must come from small and medium enterprises, not large ones. For one thing, the cost of creating one job in the SME sector is just a fraction of what it costs to do so in a large en-

### No FREE LUNCH

**Cielito F. Habito**



terprise. An SME approach also promotes more geographically and sectorally dispersed job creation.

Helping SMEs requires definitive solutions to address their traditional difficulties in accessing financing, technology, raw materials and markets. But it also requires that SMEs practice "cooperation," a cooperative form of competition wherein they are prepared to band together especially to meet volume demands from buyers abroad. I have heard so many times of how the *kanya-kanya* (individualistic) attitude of our business people have led to countless missed opportunities in the export markets.

### LGUs do it best

The LGUs are best-placed to pursue development with equity. They are the units of government closest to the people, and to the problems they face. And they are naturally obliged to be responsive to the needs of the greater number, as local officials need their constituents' votes to survive.

Mayor Robredo spoke on the crucial challenge of replicating good projects and good practices. He should know. He has done so many wonderful things in Naga City that one would think other LGUs would readily emulate. But too often, people—especially politicians—want their own distinctive trademark, and shy away from "merely" copying or continuing someone else's (especially a predecessor's) success story. But there are already countless exemplary practices at the LGU level waiting to be copied and adapted by governors and mayors to their own local conditions. One only needs to look at the more than 10 years of Gawad Galing Pook awardees and finalists to get a wealth of ideas on how LGUs can effectively uplift the lives of the disadvantaged.

### Caring and sharing

Development initiatives work best when they tap synergies between the government and nongovernment sectors, with the latter including private business, NGOs, people's organizations and communities themselves. Initiatives like the Gawad Kalinga, Adopt-A-School, and Operation Compassion have already done much good. There is a wealth of goodwill in Filipinos' hearts, waiting for opportunities to find concrete expression through tangible mechanisms for helping a poor fellow Filipino. Through funding support, Panibagong Paraan has just enabled some 50 initiatives to harness such partnerships. But we don't need the World Bank and its funding partners to do so. Those among us with deep pockets can find our own ways of turning the Filipinos' well-acknowledged inherent caring nature into concrete, effective and enduring mechanisms for sharing.

Comments welcome at [chabito@ateneo.edu](mailto:chabito@ateneo.edu)

## Crackdown on illegal foreign insurers pushed

By Michelle V. Remo

THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY has prodded the government to crackdown on unlicensed foreign insurers whose illegal operations in the country have been blamed for loss of market share by legitimate players.

The Philippine Life Insurance Association (PLIA) cited the alleged selling of insurance products by Swiss-based Zurich Life, which do not carry a license to operate in the Philippines.

"Such transactions made by Zurich Financial Services/Zurich International Life are not only a loss of business to our domestic insurers but also a significant loss of tax revenues to our government," Peter Coyuto, PLIA president, told the Inquirer.

Coyuto said PLIA has already aired its grievance to the Insurance Commission and the National Bureau of Investigation.

PLIA's Jaime Santiago, executive vice president of First Life, said that unlicensed foreign-owned insurance firms pose unfair competition to legitimate players because the former, being unlicensed, evade the payment of appropriate taxes, including the 5-percent tax on insurance premiums.

PLIA officers also said operations of unlicensed insurance firms made customers vulnerable to fraud because these firms were not monitored by regulators.

Zurich used to be a licensed seller of life insurance products, but was eventually dissolved when it was bought by Manulife.

## MVP's most valuable ...

From page B2

• **TERESITA Bermudez Choa**, widow of one of the founders of Far East Bank and Trust Co., has been elected president of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines for a three-year term. Choa was also the first Filipino to be elected president of the Soroptimist International of the Americas.

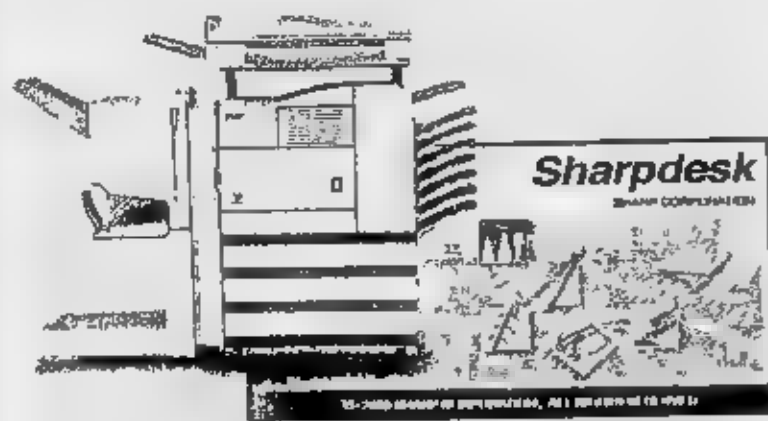
**Heard through the grapevine** PALAWAN Gov. Joel Reyes has written Natural Resources Secretary Angelo Reyes, asking his department to stop the mining explorations being undertaken by carapan Lucio Tan's Macro Asia in Brooke's Point, Palawan.

(Email: [cocktails\\_pdi@pldtdsl.net](mailto:cocktails_pdi@pldtdsl.net) or [cocktails\\_pdi@yahoo.com](mailto:cocktails_pdi@yahoo.com))



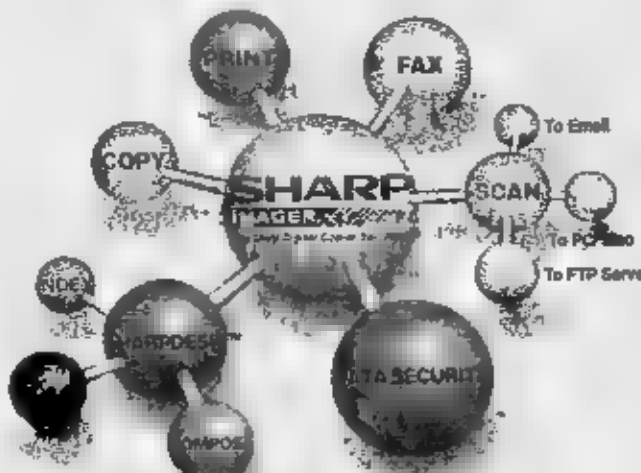
**Looking  
for DATA  
doesn't  
have to be  
this tough.**

Save precious time and effort when looking for an urgently needed document. With Sharpdesk™, data is always available and accessible. This document management solution will surely eliminate your worries on searching or filing business transactions, bills, business letters and all sorts of important documents. Sharpdesk™ is definitely a must-have for business firms, government and military offices, embassies, financial institutions, hospitals and companies that are faced with filing troubles.



Sharpdesk™, your document management solutions partner.

**Call us and we will give you  
a free product presentation.**



**SHARP**  
**IMAGER**  
The Only Digital Copier You Need.

**C-Copy Manila**  
Tel: 245-9110; 245-9112;  
245-9114, 245-9640 to 41  
Fax: 245-9109

**C-Copy Ortigas**  
Tel: 631-8714 to 18  
Fax: 631-8719

**C-Copy Calamba**  
Tel: (048) 545-9042 to 44  
Fax: (048) 545-9045

**C-Copy Makati**  
Tel: 621-2574  
Fax: 625-8888

**C-Copy Quezon City**  
Tel: 372-0176 to 79  
Fax: 372-0174

**C-Copy Cebu**  
Tel: (032) 346-2995  
(032) 348-4565  
Fax: (032) 346-3976



5837 Zobel Roxas Street, Palanan, Makati City  
**Call Center: 525-9911 loc. 104/105**  
e-mail: [info@ccopy.com.ph](mailto:info@ccopy.com.ph) • website: [www.sharpcopier.com.ph](http://www.sharpcopier.com.ph)

Copier Sales Fax: 525-9860  
Service, Parts & Genuine Consumables  
Fax: 525-9870

**C-exclusive and authorized Master Distributor of SHARP genuine consumables & original parts.**



## Audit ...

From page B3

them claimed deductions for "charitable contributions" whose costs also exceeded a given ceiling.

In doing the study, the NTRC used income tax returns for 2003 submitted by firms not considered a large taxpayer. A 2004 survey of income tax liabilities is below P1 million.

Because of very high claims of allowable deductions, the NTRC suggested that the BIR implement measures that could help it better detect the accuracy of allowable deductions claimed by corporate taxpayers.

The NTRC added that the BIR should strictly enforce the "industry benchmarking" program, which the revenue agency recently introduced as a tax-auditing strategy.

Under the program, the BIR sets benchmarks on income and supposed tax payments per industry. Any taxpayer that will declare an income much lower than the benchmark for its industry would be subjected to tighter audit.

While you are away, Protect & Monitor your home, office, factory, warehouse, showroom, retail store, school, hospital, restaurant...

**PC-BASED DVR**

Adjustable frame rate and resolution  
Image enhancement  
Multi-level user security  
POS integration ready

24-Hr Digital Video Recording  
Multiple Motion Detection  
Simultaneous Record/Playback  
Date/Time Stamp

High-Def Security  
Remote Monitoring  
Easy-to-Install  
Low-Cost

**SECURITY TECHNOLOGY**

Dealers/Agents are welcome. Tel: (03-3) 746-0067; Fax: (03-3) 533-3027. email: sam@valuestar.com.ph

## TIMEKEEPING MADE SIMPLE! No More PC Connection!

Order Now For Only **Php 15,000.00**

**Proximity Time and Attendance Reader**

- Can process 250 Proximity cards.
- Contactless card as employee ID.
- Compute Payroll in A Flash.
- Save Cost on Printing Time Cards.
- No More Manual Calculations.
- Easy to use, Plug & Play USB Port.
- FREE 20 pcs. Proximity thick card.
- Desktop or wall-mounted.

Order Now For Only **Php 15,000.00**

**Fingerprint Time and Attendance Reader**

- Process 1500 fingerprints.
- 2 seconds scanning time.
- Adjust image distortion, assure fingerprint matching consistency.
- Includes Management Software.
- Works well with dry moist or rough fingerprints.
- Built-in standalone module.
- Price inclusive of installation.

Call us now at: 533-1562 | 533-3612 | 533-2989 | 533-6040 or visit [www.mseed.com.ph](http://www.mseed.com.ph)

1004 B Summit One Office Tower, 539 Shaw Boulevard Mandaluyong City. Tel: 533-1862 | 533-3612 | 533-6040 | 533-2989

**MUSTARD Seed**  
www.mseed.com.ph

IBM, the inventor of tape technology 50 years ago, has done it again. IBM is again first off the blocks in making the latest Gen 3 Ultrium LTO tape drives commercially available in the Philippines today.

With the new generation of tape drives, you can now backup almost one terabyte (800GB compressed) of your valuable data on a single cartridge at a blistering speed of up to 80MB/s. Together with IBM's Tivoli Storage Manager software, what would usually take several hours of backup is now reduced to just minutes.



**Generation 3**  
**Great just got greater!**

### IBM 3580-L33 Ultrium 3 Tape Drive



**Php 271,500.00** VAT Inc.

### Tivoli software



Bundled with:

- Three (3) data cartridges
- Tivoli Storage Manager backup software
- 3 years parts, 24x7 Onsite Service Warranty.

### Product Highlights

- Native Backup of 80MB/sec
- Up to 800GB Cartridge capacity to backup.
- Independent tape loader & threader motors and positive in pin retention
- Graceful Dynamic Braking.
- Larger Internal Buffer
- Highly integrated electronics using IBM engineered copper technology.

### IBM 3581-L38 Ultrium 3 Tape Autoloader



**Php 459,500.00** VAT Inc.



Bundled with:

- Three (3) data cartridges
- 3 years 9x5,580 Onsite Service Warranty.

### Product Highlights

- Designed to support cost-effective backup, save/restores, and archival storage
- Available in LVD SCSI (Model 3581L3H), and native switched fabric 2 Gbps Fibre Channel (Model 3581F3H)
- Native data backup to 3.2 TB (up to 6.4 TB using 2:1 compression) with eight cartridge slots.
- Rack mount option standard with Express Models.
- Optional bar code reader and remote management unit are designed for library operation of the autoloader

To inquire:

Call: + 63 2 812.7666

Luza Tono (loc. 234)

Deanne Calicut (loc. 179)

Prices valid until June 15, 2006. Stocks available while supplies last.



it's our business to make your business grow

sales@wsiphil.com.ph +63 2 810 9301 +63 2 812.7666

Manila: 74 SEDCO - Bldg. Roca corner Unigra Bldg. Uptown Village, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Tel: +63 2 812-0430 email: sales@wsiphil.com.ph

Quezon City: 1501 Technology Bldg. 28th Floor, South Road, Quezon City. Tel: +63 2 255 1011 email: sales@wsiphil.com.ph



Can't reach your **STOCK BROKER?**

Trade **ONLINE** Now

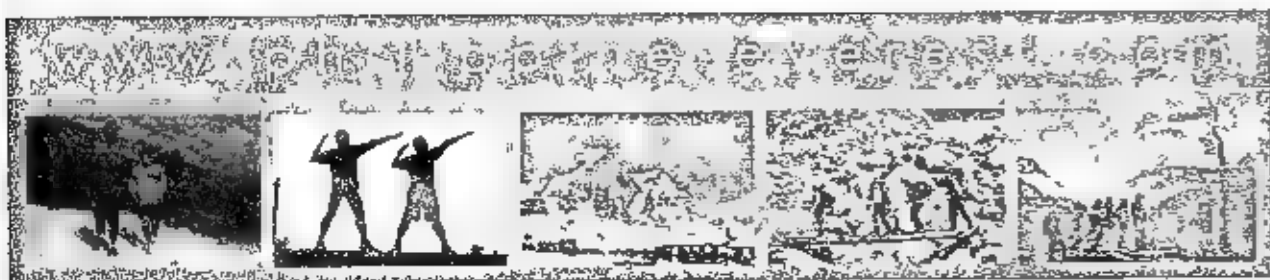
**www.philstocks.ph**

"Your ONLINE access to Philippine stock market"

\* **FREE** seminars on ONLINE stock trading every Tuesday and Thursday

**ACCORD CAPITAL**  
EQUIPMENT CORPORATION  
Manila, Philippine Stock Exchange

For details please call: 587.5077  
Email: sales@philstocks.ph



**GOVERNMENT**

After 3 years of intense preparation, the Filipinos have finally conquered the tallest peak on Earth. Mozcom salutes Leo Oracion, Erwin Emata and the 1st Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition for their commitment and dedication.

**HAYAG '000!**

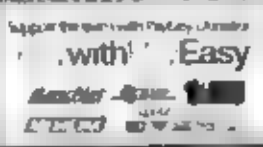
1st Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition Team  
Island Peak, Nepal  
April 2006

Mozcom shares your commitment and passion for taking on the challenges in life.

The First Philippine Commercial Internet Service Provider proudly supports the First Philippine Mount Everest Expedition Team



Manila (02) 848-2606 Cebu (032) 253-0013  
Davao (082) 221-7462 Baguio (074) 443-9501  
Email: info@mozcom.com



**WWW.MOZCOM.COM**



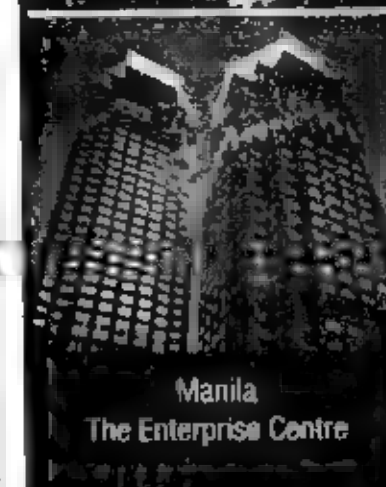
**Need office space fast?**

Look no further Regus on-demand workplaces provide businesses, both large and small, with professionally staffed, furnished and fully-equipped offices.

- High speed Internet and telecoms ready-to-go
- Access to Meeting Rooms on-demand
- No initial capital outlay
- Sign today, move-in tomorrow
- Stay for as little as one day to years

With Regus Ready-to-Use Offices, you can go wherever your business takes you.

**Call us today on 849 3489**  
for your customised office solution.



**regus.com.ph**

**Regus**

**849 3489**







MONDAY, MAY 29, 2006

## BUSINESS

B1

# PLDT seeks to boost sagging landline business

## New pricing scheme seen to perk up telco's core business

### Jaraula's parliament: Big hoax

CONSTANTINO JARAULA, CHAIR of the House committee on constitutional amendments was the guest on Pinky Webb's Talk show the other night. He was ecstatic over the merits of the parliamentary system.

But Jaraula's parliamentary dream is one big hoax.

He said that only under a parliamentary system might a member from the tiny island province of Camiguin or Batanes ever hope to become prime minister—so long as he happens to be the most talented in parliament. Why? Because under a parliamentary system, only the brightest is voted prime minister.

Jaraula was obviously implying that in a parliament, the ignorant masses do not vote. Only the highly educated members cast their ballots. As the communists in our midst would put it, Jaraula is elitist.

The member from Camiguin or Batanes, whether or not he is the brightest or the dumbest, will be elected prime minister only if he heads the ruling party or coalition. He might be, by far, the brightest of the lot but he will be consigned to the backbench if he heads the smallest party.

In a South American country some years ago, a confirmed idiot was elected prime minister. Fortunately for that country, in one lucid moment, the idiot resigned.

Then, Jaraula said that elections in a parliamentary system are much less expensive because the candidate for prime minister does not have to campaign nationwide. Tony Blair campaigned all over the United Kingdom to carve a solid majority for his New Labor Party. More recently, Angela Merkel campaigned all over Germany to become the first woman chancellor.

If Jaraula is interested, I will lend him a documentary showing Hitler hitting three cities a day, every day, in a campaign that won for the Nazi party 30 percent of the seats, making it the largest party in the Reichstag in 1932. He was the first to use the airplane to campaign.

If Erap were running under a parliamentary system in 1998, he would have had to campaign hard for his candidates in the Partido ng Masang Filipino all over the islands. To improve their chances of winning, he would have had to provide them with enough campaign funds.

### QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General



His party would have won 40 percent of the seats. Afterwards, Erap would have had to forge a coalition with some of the smaller parties to amass a majority vote. Only then would Erap get elected prime minister.

All the campaigning and wheeling and dealing would not have been cheaper than under a presidential system.

Jaraula complains that, in the present system, the president has too much power. But Jaraula's parliament fuses executive and legislative power on the prime minister. For example, parliament designs, approves and spends the national budget. With all that power in his hands, the prime minister is not even elected directly by the people.

Jaraula claims that the opposition will provide the check and balance found in the presidential system. The opposition can never provide check and balance. The majority will always outvote it.

Finally, Jaraula's biggest hoax is when he said that a parliamentary system would (miracle of miracles) wipe out corruption in the Philippines because, if a member were corrupt, his constituents will remove him from his post forthwith. At this point of the show, I could see that Pinky Webb could hardly hide her incredulity.

In a survey by an international polling firm, the 21 most corrupt countries in the whole wide world (don't worry, Philippines is not one of them) are: Equatorial Guinea, Haiti, Iraq, Congo, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Laos, Paraguay, Turkmenistan, Somalia, North Korea, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Angola, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Niger, Sudan, Azerbaijan and Tajikistan.

All these countries are under some form or other of the parliamentary system.

Jaraula insults the Filipino people if he thinks he can go on national TV and get away with his gigantic hoax. Let us hope that the electorate of Cagayan de Oro City, whom he represents in Congress, will kick him out in next year's elections.

By Daxin L. Lucas

WITH A NEW PRICING SCHEME, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) hopes to revive its stagnant landline business, which has been overshadowed by mobile phones in recent years, according to a company official.

The new promo, which the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) approved last

week, will initially be applied to "pilot areas" in order to test the business model and the technology that will be used to support it, PLDT spokesperson Ramon R. Isberto said.

"We do hope that this will better position us to perk up the landline business in the target areas," Isberto said.

The new scheme cuts the price of landline services to as low as

P300 a month from the existing rate of over P700 a month for residential subscribers.

Company officials clarified that the service will initially be launched only in selected target areas, although it will not be restricted to new PLDT clients only. This means that existing subscribers may opt to convert their services to the proposed "Economy Plans."

The pilot program is being con-

ducted in order to test new service packages on a limited scale and to maximize capacity utilization in certain areas, Isberto explained, adding that the new service schemes "are designed to provide new subscribers additional options in terms of pricing and service features."

The results of PLDT's pilot program will determine which new areas the service will be provided

PLDT/B1

### From Business Presentation to Home Theater System

Call us now!



DA-LITE

AVLS

All Visual & Lights Systems  
w/ Farmers Plaza  
anex. Cubao, Q.C.  
10904, 9110947  
38307

### Multimedia Projectors and Projection Screens



**NEC VT580 Portable Performance**  
• 2000 ANSI lumens  
• XGA 1024x768 native resolution  
• Automatic keystone correction



**Optoma EP719P Price Performance**  
• 2300 lumens, 2000:1 contrast ratio  
• DLP Technology  
• 800x600 SVGA resolution  
• HDTV Ready



**EPSON EMP 53**  
• Ultra bright 1600 ANSI lumens  
• 3LCD technology for outstanding image quality and performance  
• Ideal for formal presentation



**BenQ PE7700 Home Theater Projector**  
• 1,000 lumens, 2500:1 contrast ratio  
• 6 Segment Color Wheel for high performance  
• HDMI-Ready  
• Bring home cinema all its best to your living room

The Hive Makati  
Unit-C Ground Floor  
People Support Center  
Amaroso St. Makati City  
Tel. Nos. 7511351 or 59

The Hive Cebu  
Unit 11 G/F Main Mall  
Bonifacio Town Centre  
Cebu City  
Tel. Nos. 032-3462411 or 12

## I have a deal for you!

from May 15 to June 30, 2006

buy a Canon digital office solution and get free gifts!

## Hurry!

call

# 8849032 to 33

and get the best solution for your office today!

### Fitch expects RP to weather turbulence in Asia markets

By Doris C. Dumlaog

LONDON-BASED CREDIT RATING agency Fitch Ratings is not alarmed over the heavy portfolio shakeout hounding the Philippines and other Asian emerging markets, saying the turbulence hasn't weakened the underlying credit fundamentals.

As long as the sell-down won't balloon to crisis proportions, the recent sell-down on emerging markets should not weigh down the Philippine government's capability to service its debts, said James McCormack, Fitch Ratings' senior director and head of Asia sovereign ratings.

"It shouldn't really affect the ratings because our view is that the markets may have gotten ahead of themselves," McCormack said in an interview at the sidelines of the 45th ACI World Congress hosted by Philippine foreign exchange traders.

"What we're seeing now is a change in risk appetite of investors, we think, and not necessarily a change on fundamentals," McCormack said. "It can turn into something that could affect credit fundamentals but, up to now, we haven't seen that."

Over the last three weeks, currencies, bonds and equities in emerging markets like the Philippines were rattled by worries over high inflation in the United States which, in turn, could preempt the earlier expected tailend in overnight interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve.

Many analysts still expect that most of the recent selloffs would be reversed, and that macroeconomic fundamentals in emerging markets would not have changed much to shift the long-run direc-

tion of global markets.

"A change in currency or a change in interest rates to defend the currency—they would have to be pretty significant in order to adjust or change the credit fundamentals of a country," McCormack said.

He acknowledged the Philippine government's recent fiscal gains but noted that a change in outlook to "positive" from "stable" was not likely in the immediate future due to lingering concerns over medium-term revenue collections.

Meanwhile, most market players are expecting the Philippines and other central banks to tighten monetary settings to make their local currency assets more attractive given a shift in investors' appetite away from emerging markets.

"I think on a regional basis, one may expect some interest hikes, but very gradual," said former Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho. "Governments will still be very concerned about the growth of the economy."

Camacho, vice chair at Credit Suisse's investment banking for emerging markets in Asia, said the current market sentiment was a challenge for countries with negative interest rate differentials versus offshore benchmarks.

"It's a very, very fine balancing act," he said. "It's very difficult. Some governments will have to be more aggressive, while some may be more prudent."

In the case of the Philippines, the consensus among resource speakers and other participants at the ACI World Congress is that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas may have to jack up its overnight interest rates by 50 basis points in the second semester.



Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

Marina Plaza Building 2553 Don Chato Reyes Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila • Tel. No. 882 894-9000 • Fax No. 882 894-8774

Email: info@canon.com.ph • Web: http://www.canon.com.ph

La Union Branch: 16 Peralta Building, Quaron Avenue, San Fernando City, La Union • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 247-8440  
Pampanga Branch: Peralta Bldg., McArthur Highway, Dolores, San Fernando City, Pampanga • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 1: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 2: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 3: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 4: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 5: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 6: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 7: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 8: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 9: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 10: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 11: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 12: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 13: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 14: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 15: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 16: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 17: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 18: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 19: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 20: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 21: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 22: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 23: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 24: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 25: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 26: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 27: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 28: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 29: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 30: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 31: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 32: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 33: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 34: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 35: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 36: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 37: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 38: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 39: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 40: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 41: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 42: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 43: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 44: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 45: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 46: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 47: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 48: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 49: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 50: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 51: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 52: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 53: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 54: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 55: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 56: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 57: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 58: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 59: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 60: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 61: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 62: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 63: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 64: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 65: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 66: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 67: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 68: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 69: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 70: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 71: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 72: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 73: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 74: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 75: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 76: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 77: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 78: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 79: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 80: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 81: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 82: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 83: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 84: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 85: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 86: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 87: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 88: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 89: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 90: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 91: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 92: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 93: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 94: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 95: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 96: 3 & 8 CEA Building, Ground Floor, Lugo-Lugo St., Cagayan City, Ilocos • Tel. No. 0921 342-4587 • Fax No. 0921 342-4587  
Branch 97: 3 &



# Asia urged to curb reliance on US for growth

## Panalo ka sa Kakaibang **SIGN MAKING**



# Roland

The No. 1 Choice of Signmakers around the World



**Billboards**



**Trade Shows & Events**



**Banners & Streamers**



**Fast Graphics**



**Posters & Outdoor Signs**



**Made in Japan**

**Roland Soljet Pro II delivers superb graphics fast, your customers will keep coming back!**

- prints up to 900sqft/hr — a billboard every 2-hour
- 1440 dpi resolution makes it ideal for indoor ads
- no lamination required unlike with dye-based
- X4 solvent ink costs 80% less than dye
- prints on low-cost media — tarpaulin, vinyl sticker, photopaper, backlit film, cloth, plain paper



**Tajima**  
ILAM - GRAPHICS  
Superior Technology!

Tel: 722-7461  
Email: [rajapad@rol.com.ph](mailto:rajapad@rol.com.ph)  
[www.rol.com.ph](http://www.rol.com.ph)

**Graphic Expo '06 FREE Seminar June 13, 9am - call us for details - 726-3991 to 98**

## Regional cooperation seen key to progress

By Doris C. Dumlaog

**ASIA MUST BRACE FOR MORE EXTERNAL** shocks by moving toward a new growth paradigm that relies less on US consumption and more on internal strength as well as regional economic cooperation and integration, the chief of investment banking giant Merrill Lynch said.

In a keynote speech before International currency traders at the closing of the 45th AIC World Congress hosted by the Philippines on Saturday, Merrill Lynch chair Kevan Watts said fast-growing Asia needed "a new dynamism to sustain growth and development in the next few years" as well-observed global imbalances were making policy adjustment inevitable.

The Philippine initiatives to shore up internal economic fundamentals by reducing reliance on external debts and boosting revenue collections were particularly lauded as an example in the right direction.

He said the US housing market was a major driver in the global economy that was now losing momentum, on top of external shocks from skyrocketing oil prices, global terrorism and concerns over the Asian bird flu.

"Asia has benefited enormously over the past five years from the easy availability of credit and in particular the readiness of American homeowners to spend some of their new-found wealth," Watts said, noting that Asian central banks had accumulated nearly \$2 trillion in reserves through a model reliant on exporting to the world's biggest economy.

Going forward, he also warned that the full effects of recent oil shocks could adversely affect Asia greatly.

"With excess capacity at low levels and with prices increasingly driven by supply-side concerns, any future adverse impact is likely to be greater than in the recent past," Watts said. "We have already seen the beginning of some political consequences of these changing economic dynamics in the form of heightened protectionist trade pressures, particularly in the US."

## Protectionist winds

"The vagaries of the American election cycle and the weakened status of a second-term president will likely ensure that these protectionist winds gather pace," he said.

Jitters over an Asian bird flu and its potential to evolve into something that could be transmitted from one human being to another, as well as the threat of global terrorism, were likewise shocks that Asia must guard against, he added.

"We are facing new challenges in the global economy and Asia in particular needs to find ways to sustain growth and development without strong consumption growth in the US."

Watts said that this suggested a need for stronger internally generated growth in Asia, perhaps combining a lower savings rate and greater readiness for Asian countries to invest in each other.

Establishing such a paradigm would not be easy, Watts admitted, but stressed that Asia could kick off with the pillars of regional economic integration unveiled by the Asian Development Bank during the recent annual meeting in India.

The ADB-supported framework calls for the provision of cross-border transport and other physical infrastructure and software; trade and investment cooperation among member-countries; regional, monetary and financial collaboration, and cooperation for regional public benefit in areas such as combating health hazards.

Although 55 percent of Asian trade was now intra-regional, Watts said Asia must further diversify trade flows away from the United States.

Although the shift toward a monetary union was a tall order as what had happened in the European experience, Watts supported the ADB's plan to work on an index or indices of Asian currencies that would make it easier to track the movement of these currencies against each other.

# CASIO

## New ES Series!

Simplification with

Example Simplify the expression

$$2\sqrt{\frac{3}{4}} + 4\sqrt{\frac{5}{8}} = \sqrt{10} + \sqrt{3}$$

**Classroom-friendly operation!**

**Advanced Natural Textbook Display**


Full dot display: Allows the natural input of expressions of the fraction, numerator and denominator can be clearly displayed in 2-Line just as they are written.

Natural output: The calculation results in irrational numbers (which have non-circulating infinite decimals such as  $\sqrt{2}$  and  $\pi$ ) can be converted to the expression using  $\sqrt{\quad}$  or  $\pi$ .


**CAUTION** >>>

**DO NOT PUT YOUR FUTURE AT RISK!**

All authentic CASIO products distributed and warranted by Business Plus are covered with one (1) year warranty and after sales service. If you want to make sure that you're getting the real deal, look for the BPM bar code seal.




### A revolutionary display designed in perfect analogy to textbook!




**fx-350ES** 249 functions

Table function  
Fraction calculations  
Combination and permutation  
Statistics  
AAA-size (LR03) alkaline battery




**fx-500ES** (254 functions)

Fraction calculations  
Combination and permutation  
Statistics  
Equation calculations  
AAA-size (R03) battery




**fx-82ES** (249 functions)

Table function  
Fraction calculations  
Combination and permutation  
Statistics  
AAA-size (R03) battery




**fx-85ES** 249 functions

Table function  
Fraction calculations  
Combination and permutation  
Statistics  
Two-way power



**fx-991ES** (403 functions)

Integration / Differential  
Matrix calculations  
Vector calculations  
Complex number calculations  
Two-way power



**fx-570ES** (403 functions)

Integration / Differential  
Matrix calculations  
Vector calculations  
Complex number calculations  
AAA-size (R03) battery

**AVAILABLE AT:**

- P. Tuazon**  
178 P. Tuazon, Cubao, QC  
Tels: 911 5551 / 57 & 912-7529  
913-2577 telefax: 911 5553  
Commonwealth Ave., QC  
Tels: 931 5650 / 931-5608  
telefax: 931-5632
- Ever Commonwealth**  
5M Magamail, Mandaluyong City  
Tels: 634-6532 / 634 1737 telefax: 635 2071
- Megamail**

**WESTERN**


- Cubao**  
Farmers Annex, Cubao, QC  
Tels: 911 2514 / 911 0771 telefax: 911 2585  
1421 35 C.M. Recto Avenue Sta. Cruz Manila  
Tels: 711 5671 to 74 7119-5295 telefax: 711 5675
- Manila**
- Katokan**  
742 Rizal Ave., Ext., Katokan  
Tels: 361 2468 / 361 3055 350-0371 & 72  
telefax: 361 2751
- Grand Central**  
Ever Gleason, Rizal Ave., Ext. Katokan  
Tels: 305 5341 / 364-5383 telefax: 303-3023
- Festival Mall**  
FC City Aseang, Muntinlupa City  
Tel: 850 3767 & 58 / 850-3746 telefax: 850 3744

- Sta. Lucia East**  
Basement Level, Sta. Lucia East  
Cebu City Tel: 645-0396
- Sta. Rosa Laguna**  
Target Mall, Balibago Complex  
Tels: 809 22-93/96 telefax: 699-2319

**GLOBALTRONICS**

- Festival Mall** Tels: 850-3746/58
- CM Recto, MIA** Tels: 711 5671 to 74

**www.busplussmktg.com**



**PLDT Microsoft**

**INSPIRE** **INSPIRE** **BusinessWorld**

primarily present

## AL RIES'

### BRAND MARKETING CONFERENCE






June 23, 2006 – Hotel Philippine Plaza

## Building Better Brands

also featuring Laura Ries, co-author of 22 Immutable Laws of BRANDING

**“Learn how to really profit from the most powerful, proven marketing strategies  
...plus gain new insights from Al Ries’ 22 laws of branding!”**


Event Partners:

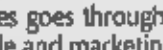
for **advertising and sponsorship**,  
pls. call **813-2703-32**  
and ask for **Gina**

Call to reserve your seat! **813-2703/32**  
or email : [alriesbmc@inspire.ph](mailto:alriesbmc@inspire.ph), [gina@inspire.ph](mailto:gina@inspire.ph)

Produced By:



for the benefit of



Bringing out the BEST in you  
[www.SalAadRightVentures.com](http://www.SalAadRightVentures.com)



# Hike in interest rates bane on economy, BSP study says

## Rise in reserve requirement to reduce GDP

By Doris C. Dumkalo

A HIKE IN KEY OVERNIGHT INTEREST rates by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will have the biggest dampening effect on the domestic economy over the long term, according to an internal BSP study.

For every 25 basis point increase in overnight or reverse repurchase rate, the study said the country's gross domestic product would be reduced by at least P35.3 million a quarter for the next 12 months and P85.5 million a quarter over the next 24 months.

Overnight rates refer to the interest charged on money that banks borrow from each other, usually to meet reserve requirements.

"A hike in the RRP rate, compared to other changes in reserve requirement and open market operations, reduces quarterly GDP by the largest magnitude in 24 months," it added.

The new study reviewed recently by the Monetary Board also said that an increase in the reserve requirement on banks over the next 12 months would cause the biggest reduction in the country's gross domestic product.

A hike in reserve requirements would mean that the banks will keep more of its cash resources in its vaults, rather than lend it to borrowers or invested in securities.

"In terms of impact on GDP, a one-percentage point increase in reserve requirement leads to the greatest amount of reduction in quarterly GDP levels over periods of three and 12 months," the BSP study said.

There were three monetary management tools cited in the study: The overnight borrowing or reverse repurchase (RRP) rate, reserve requirement and outright sale of securities.

Based on the study, the outright sale of securities by the BSP would be the least costly for the economy.

The study was conducted on the heels of a regional sell-down on emerging market portfolio assets on expectations of further increases in interest rates by the US Federal Reserve.

The increase in the reserve requirement is seen slowing down domestic output by P800,000 each quarter in three succeeding months, but the impact would rise to P42.1 million a quarter over the next 12 months and P66.6 million a quarter over the next 24 months.

On the other hand, the issuance of P1 billion worth of securities to siphon off liquidity, was seen reducing GDP by P2.8 million a quarter over the next 12 months and P4.5 million a quarter over the next 24 months.

In terms of tempering inflation, an

increase in the reserve requirement would have the biggest immediate impact of nearly 0.1 percentage point reduction over a three-month period, the study noted.

"However, over a period of one year, a 25-basis point increase in the RRP rate takes precedence over changes in reserve requirement and open market operations," it said.

Overall, a reduction in interest rates would make savings less attractive and borrowing more attractive instead, stimulating spending.

It can also boost the prices of assets such as shares and houses.

But changes in interest rates can also affect the exchange rate.

"An unexpected rise in the rate of interest in the Philippines relative to other countries would give investors a higher return on Philippine assets relative to their foreign currency equivalents, tending to make peso-denominated assets more attractive," the study explained.

"That should raise the value of the peso, reduce the price of imports, and reduce demand for Philippine goods and services abroad," it said.

But the study also said that the impact of interest rates on the exchange rate was "seldom that predictable."

The BSP had recently warned that local bond rates had fallen too low relative to foreign issues.

GRAPHIC  
EXPO  
2006  
11TH  
EDITION

11th Graphic Expo 2006

Philippine Trade Training Center  
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Philippines

June 14-17, 2006

Where digital imaging and printing made easy!

Desktop Publishing, Digital Photography and Imaging,  
Prepress, Print Production, Large Format Printing,  
Web Publishing, Multimedia & Animation

Free Exhibit Entrance!

- digital photography
- multimedia
- large format printing
- animation
- quick printing
- web graphics & video
- prepress & print production
- 3D & special effects
- web-publishing
- gaming & entertainment

Join and Win  
Prizes! Largest for  
Competition  
participants only!

- The Digital Art Competition  
(Categories: Digital Graphic Design, Digital Fine Art, Web Design)
- The Animation Competition

Register and reserve your seat now!

June 14, 2006	June 15, 2006	June 16, 2006	June 17, 2006
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASCI of Photoshop CS2</li> <li>CS2 Advanced Photoshop Techniques</li> <li>Getting Started in InDesign CS</li> <li>Principles of Effective Publications Design</li> <li>Adobe Illustrator for Beginners</li> <li>Creating Eye-Popping Graphics with Adobe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adobe Premiere Pro: Editing Essentials</li> <li>Adobe Premiere Pro: Tips and Tricks</li> <li>Scanning Techniques for Designers</li> <li>Photoshop: Color Management and Printing</li> <li>Beyond Prepress: Harnessing the Power of Acrobat 7</li> <li>PDF Workflow and Design for Creative Professionals</li> <li>Advanced Illustrator CS2 Techniques</li> <li>Using Photoshop and Illustrator Together</li> <li>Photographing People: Secrets of Professional Photographers Revealed</li> <li>Glamour Nude and Bodyscapes Photography</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced Image Compositing</li> <li>Advanced Portrait Retouching</li> <li>Integrating Corel Draw and Macromedia Flash</li> <li>Beyond PowerPoint: Macromedia Flash for Corporate Presentations</li> <li>3ds Max Unleashed</li> <li>Compositing with Combustion</li> <li>Dreamweaver Power User Tips and Tricks</li> <li>Dreamweaver 8 and XML</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mastering Colors in Photoshop CS2</li> <li>Photoshop Automation and Amazing Shortcuts</li> <li>Emerging Macromedia Flash Projects with Action Script</li> <li>Macromedia Flash Controlling</li> <li>Making Corporate Presentation Materials (Stocks, Tips and Techniques of multimedia presentations and web publishing)</li> <li>Final Cut Pro: Editing Essentials</li> <li>Sounding Visual Effects with Adobe After Effects</li> </ul>

Major Sponsor:

EPSON  
EXCEED YOUR VISION

hp  
invent

Canon  
image

In Cooperation With:

AGC  
CLUB

IN  
CLUB

AGC  
CLUB

AGC  
CLUB

AGC  
CLUB

Media Sponsor:

ENTERPRISE  
UPDATE

ENTERPRISE  
UPDATE

ENTERPRISE  
UPDATE

ENTERPRISE  
UPDATE

ENTERPRISE  
UPDATE

ENTERPRISE  
UPDATE

ENTERPRISE  
UPDATE

ENTERPRISE  
UPDATE

Printed by:

ENTERPRISE  
UPDATE

Organized by:

ENTERPRISE  
UPDATE

Call Center: +632 896-0639, 896-0637, 899-6216, email: [flera@info.com.ph](mailto:flera@info.com.ph),  
Visit Website: <http://www.fml.com.ph>, <http://www.graphicexpo.com.ph>

# Aboitiz group's Unionbank moves closer to taking over iBank assets

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

UNION BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES is moving closer to taking over International Exchange Bank as it expects to finish its due diligence by June 5.

Unionbank president Victor Valdepeñas made the assessment after the bank's stockholders' meeting late Friday.

Unionbank earlier signed a memorandum of agreement with iBank shareholders JTKC Equities Inc., iVantage Corp., Razon Industries Inc., and Greenhills Property Ventures to acquire their combined 67-percent stake in the company.

Unionbank chair Justo Ortiz said earlier that he sees no hitches in the proposed merger with iBank.

Ortiz had said minority shareholders could no longer make a counter-offer as the majority shareholders have already agreed to sell their stake to Unionbank.

"We just have to deal with the rest of the shareholders either through individual agreements or a tender offer but the agreement is binding," Ortiz said.

"Those who will not accept a cash offer at P42.50 will just have to accept a share swap which will be the consequence of the merger," he added.

iBank president Ramon Sy,

meanwhile, who was not among those who signed the MOA, owns around 3 percent.

Unionbank director Erramon Aboitiz, meanwhile, said a merger with iBank was a "perfect fit."

"We think it's a good bank with good people running it. It's a perfect fit in terms of culture and philosophy," Aboitiz told INQUIRER.

Unionbank will be the surviving entity of the merger, which will make Unionbank the 7th largest bank in asset size and branch network and the 8th largest in deposits.

Unionbank currently runs 111 branches, while iBank has 80.

Ortiz admitted that Unionbank was behind its goal to be the third largest bank by 2010.

"So we have to fast track things," he said, adding that Unionbank is still open to new acquisitions.

Acquisition of 67 percent in iBank would require roughly P9 billion.

"Capital raising is a possibility but there is nothing in the books. It depends on the opportunities," Valdepeñas said.

He also said Unionbank aims to grow its net profit this year by 5 to 10 percent from 2005, driven by both interest and non-interest income.

# Mirant ups profit in Q1

By Abigail L. Ho

ATLANTA-BASED MIRANT CORP., parent firm of the country's largest independent power producer Mirant Philippines Corp., registered a huge net income jump in the first quarter to \$467 million from only \$11 million in the same period last year.

Adjusted net income, on the other hand, was placed at \$142 million. This excluded unrealized mark-to-market gains of \$298 million, plus other nonrecurring charges, mainly a \$40-million gain on the sale of assets.

Adjusted earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization, a measure of cash flow, reached \$340 million in the first three months of the year.

This \$173-million jump in adjusted Ebitda, as compared with the January-March period in 2005, was attributed mainly to higher realized margins from hedging activities by the company's business in the United States.

"Our hedging strategy has been effective. We are substantially hedged for the year, which has produced more predictable financial results mitigating milder weather experienced across much of the US during the quar-

ter," Mirant chair and chief executive Edward Muller said.

Operating cash flow was pegged at \$500 million, an amount already adjusted for bankruptcy payments.

As of end-March, Mirant had cash and cash equivalents of \$1.73 billion.

Mirant Philippines chair, president and chief executive Jose Leviste Jr. said Mirant's strong performance would also provide a huge boost to the company's business in the Philippines.

"These are very good numbers posted by our parent company. This motivates the Philippine business unit to work more effectively and efficiently to meet our goals for our stakeholders and targets for the year," he said in a statement over the weekend.

Mirant Philippines accounts for about 40 percent of its parent firm's Ebitda.

The IPP owns and operates some of the biggest power plants in the country, including the 1,200-MW Sual coal-fired plant in Pangasinan and the 700-MW Pagbilao coal-fired generation facility in Quezon. It also has a stake in the 1,200-MW Ilijan gas-fired power plant in Batangas.

Mirant's total capacity in the country now stands at 2,200 MW.



Ito ang alalay ko sa buhay!



COUNTRY BANKERS Life  
INSURANCE CORPORATION  
SINCE 1965

Country Bankers Centre, 648 T.M. Kalaw Avenue, Ermita, Manila  
Telephone Nos. 523-86-11 to 18 \* Fax No. 536-10-56



## Mindanao wants to be known as halal center of RP

ZAMBOANGA CITY—EVEN THE FINANCE sector wants Mindanao declared the country's capital for halal food and processed consumer products.

Halal pertains to foods or goods prepared in accordance with Islamic laws. Muslims do not eat food or use products laced with pork or anything perceived as unclean.

Mylo Johann Amsid, corporate sales manager for Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), said the bank was eager to know when Mindanao would be considered the country's halal center.

"We want to know what are the implementing guidelines or rules for Mindanao to be a halal center," Amsid said.

Amsid said the income from halal products produced in Mindanao could be as high as \$20 billion a year.

The government eyes Middle East countries and other areas where there are sizeable Muslim population for halal products

produced in Mindanao.

"We are expecting to gain \$20 billion from the world market," he said.

Amsid, also chair of the Mindanao Business secretariat, said the business sector has discussed the need for the declaration of Mindanao as the country's halal capital.

He said another meeting, which would involve chief executives and finance officers of various corporations, rural banks, aquamarine and agricultural firms, would be held here on June 9.

Bangko Sentral Gov. Amando Tetangco was expected to attend the meeting, which was also aimed at pushing the so-called Mindanao Business Agenda.

"After the series of conferences, all actionable issues such as information technology, rubber and coconut, seaweeds, canning and shipping will be integrated and incorporated into a package dubbed as the Mindanao Business Agenda," Amsid said. **Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

## Unilever to tap halal mart

### Mayonnaise may soon be sold to Malaysia

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FOOD AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS maker Unilever Philippines Inc. is set on tapping the multibillion-dollar-yearly halal market through its mayonnaise products.

"We are very keen on halal and we hope to find a solution and be able to start by next year," said Unilever chief executive Howard D. Belton.

Belton said, however, that the cost of factory adjustments was one of the main reasons why the company was taking its time on the matter.

"We need about P10-million production line that would be isolated (from elements that would make the product not acceptable to the Muslim market)," Belton said. "But going into that is not just a simple issue of cost."

Halal is an Arabic word generally translated as "permissible" and, in re-

lation to consumables, refer to products that Muslims are allowed to use, eat and drink in the observance of Islam.

Unilever sells a product line of mayonnaise that comes in tuna, chicken and ham flavors—the latter prohibited among Muslims.

The global halal food industry is said to account for about \$150 billion in revenues a year.

Belton said the immediate market for Unilever's halal mayonnaise would be Malaysia, where the firm is already exporting its other products.

"That would be a wiser move than going into the Indonesian market where we are less established and where competition (would pose greater challenges)," Belton added.

In a separate interview, Abdul Rahman RT Linzag, president of the Islamic Da'wah Council of the Philippines (ID-

CP), said ketchup maker Heinz UPC Philippines was also interested in having its products certified as halal.

IDCP is so far the only halal-certifying body in the country recognized by concerned international agencies such as the Jakarta-based World Halal Council.

Linzag said both Unilever and Heinz began talks with IDCP in 2005 to know more about the requirements of halal certification.

"(Unilever officials told us that) if it is successful with mayonnaise, the firm would consider having its other food products halal-certified," Linzag said.

Further, he said that even certain segments in non-Muslim markets in Japan and Europe wanted halal foods because to these consumers, halal means high quality in terms of food preparation and nutritional value.

## Chinese firms looking for land in Mindanao

By Christine A. Gaylican

A GROUP OF CHINESE INVESTORS is keen on developing some 4,500 hectares of land in Zamboanga Sibugay in Mindanao, which will entail some P5.4 billion in investments, an industry official said.

Basilia Ho, chair of the Philippine Rubber Industry Association, said Chinese investors were looking at land suitable for growing rubber as China strives to meet its growing demand for natural rubber.

Now the world's biggest rubber consumer, China imports one million metric tons (MT) of natural rubber a year for the manufacture of motor vehicle tires, shoes, disposable surgical and industrial gloves, she said.

She, however, refused to divulge the name of the Chinese companies until agreements have been signed.

Industry estimates showed that investments in growing rubber range from P90,000 to P120,000 a hectare.

Zamboanga Sibugay is home to the second oldest rubber plan-

tation in the Philippines, the oldest being in Menzi, Isabela.

There are 2,000 hectares of reforested land planted to around 34,000 rubber trees in Zamboanga Sibugay, easily overtaking the 17,000 and 29,000 trees produced in Cotabato and Basilan, respectively.

"Investments in rubber are well compensated because the world price of raw rubber sap had jumped more than 300 percent to an average of \$1,600 per metric ton from \$380 last year," said Onofre Grino, president of the Menzi Agricultural Corp.—one of the remaining rubber plantations in the country.

This has prompted farmers to produce more of the commodity this year, he said.

The Philippines is the 12th largest rubber producer in the world.

Of the 60,000 metric tons of rubber produced last year, 40,000 metric tons went to the export market, according to the Department of Agriculture.

The leading markets for Philippine rubber are China, Taiwan, Malaysia and Singapore.

### LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila  
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

#### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline Opening of Bids	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE
50 units Automated Teller Machine (ATM) Four (4) Year Maintenance Package	11,550,000.00	June 8, 2006 2:00 pm	June 21, 2006 1:00 PM	P23,500.00
4,270 lbs Continuous Form 11" x 14-7/8"	3,661,620.00	June 8, 2006 10:00 am	June 21, 2006 1:00 PM	P2,000.00
Various Forms for Printing (Deposit Slips and Signature Cards)	2,231,620.00	June 8, 2006 10:00 am	June 21, 2006 1:00 PM	P1,500.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the General Services Department starting May 29, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at GSD Conference Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the aforementioned address.

For more information, please call the LBP-Requirements Management Division at telephone nos 551-2200 local 2452, 2453, 7233 & 7234.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

(PDI-May 22 & 29, 2006)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

### LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila  
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

#### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

Description	Approved Budget	Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline Opening of Bids	NON-REFUNDABLE FEE
150 pcs. Passbook	P7,500,000.00	June 8, 2006 1:00 pm	June 21, 2006 1:00 PM	P 3,800.00
1 lot Supply and Delivery of 75 units	P36,268,125.00	June 8, 2006 1:00 pm	June 21, 2006 1:00 PM	P 13,200.00
1 lot Supply and Delivery of Security Appliance	P2,860,448.16	June 8, 2006 1:00 pm	June 21, 2006 1:00 PM	P1,500.00
1 lot Supply, Delivery, Installation, Firewall System (Clustered Solution)	P3,250,000.00	June 8, 2006 1:00 pm	June 21, 2006 1:00 PM	P1,700.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the General Services Department starting May 29, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Pre-Bid Conference shall be held at GSD Conference Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar St., Malate, Manila.

The bidders shall drop their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes in the bid box located at the aforementioned address.

For more information, please call the LBP-Requirements Management Division at telephone nos 551-2200 local 2452, 2453, 7233 & 7234.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

(PDI-May 29 & June 5, 2006)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

### Republic of the Philippines

#### National Transmission Corporation

South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

#### Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Replacement of 19.26 km. Corroded Overhead Ground Wire along Malaya-Kalsayan 230 kV Transmission Line 1 & 2 (From Tower No. 26-64, Tower No. 77-85) (38.532 circuit km.)

The proposed project is located in Laguna Province with an estimated length of 38.532 circuit kilometers. The work contemplated to be done by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all superintendence, labor, materials, supplies, tools, and equipment and other incidentals necessary for the complete replacement of corroded overhead ground wire including line hardware in accordance with the requirements of the Plans and Specifications.

[TRANS-05-ROHGMW-KG-05]

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM, through the Internal Cash Generation (ICG) intends to apply the sum of One Million Seven Hundred Ninety Four Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Nine and 94/100 (P1,794,759.94) being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Replacement of 19.26 km. Corroded Ground Wire along Malaya-Kalsayan 230 kV Transmission Line 1 & 2 (From Tower No. 26-64, Tower No. 77-85) (38.532 circuit km.). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for the replacement of 19.26 km. Corroded Overhead Ground Wire along Malaya-Kalsayan 230 kV Transmission Line 1 & 2 from Tower No. 26-64, Tower No. 77-85. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB License with License Particular of at least: "Category D & C, Specialties" and Registration Particular of at least: "Small B, Electrical Works" (Power Transmission & Distribution), respectively, have completed a single contract similar to the contract to be bid involving installation/construction of transmission lines rated 69 kV and above. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents, June 09, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the work is required by 60 working days.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A. 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting May 22-June 09, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00. They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before June 09, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Eligibility Screening shall be held on June 09, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO), and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on June 28-30, 2006.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting June 28-30, 2006, 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on July 07, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the OAVP Conference Room Transco, SLOM San Vicente Bldg., Laguna.

Deadline for submission of bids is on July 18, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R.A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, July 18, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation - South Luzon Operations & Maintenance  
Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)  
San Vicente Bldg., Laguna 4024  
Mr. Ruben G. Castuera BAC Chairman  
(02) 981-4578 to 78 local 4094, 4095, 4093  
rgcastuera@ntc.com.ph  
(02) 981-4676 to 78 local 4007  
www.ntc.com.ph

(SGD) RUBEN G. CASTUERA  
BAC Chairman

(PDI-May 21 & 28, 2006)

### Republic of the Philippines

#### National Transmission Corporation

South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

#### Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Replacement of 19.26 km. Corroded Overhead Ground Wire along Malaya-Kalsayan 230 kV Transmission Line 1 & 2 (From Tower No. 26-64, Tower No. 77-85) (38.532 circuit km.)

The proposed project is located in Batangas Province, South Region. The work contemplated to be done by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all superintendence, labor, materials, supplies, tools and equipment and other incidentals necessary for the complete replacement/rehabilitation of existing 69 kV wood pole transmission line structures with direct burial steel pole structures including drilling, grounding, overhead ground wires and guying and anchor assembly in accordance with the requirements of the plans and specifications.

[TRANS-04-RS2BS48BCIF-EG-10-PB2]

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM, through the Internal Cash Generation (ICG) intends to apply the sum of Fifteen Million Five Hundred Seventy Four Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety and 28/100 (P15,574,819.28) being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Replacement of 19.26 km. Corroded Ground Wire along Malaya-Kalsayan 230 kV Transmission Line 1 & 2 (From Tower No. 26-64, Tower No. 77-85) (38.532 circuit km.). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for the replacement of 19.26 km. Corroded Overhead Ground Wire along Malaya-Kalsayan 230 kV Transmission Line 1 & 2 from Tower No. 26-64, Tower No. 77-85. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB License with License Particular of at least: "Category B, Specialties" and Registration Particular of at least: "Medium A, Electrical Works" (Power Transmission & Distribution), respectively, have completed a single contract similar to the contract to be bid involving supply and installation of steel poles rated 69 kV and above. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents, June 09, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the work is required by 80 working days.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part A of R.A. 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting May 22-June 07, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00. They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before June 07, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Eligibility Screening shall be held on June 07, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO), and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on June 28-30, 2006.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P10,000.00. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting June 28-30, 2006, 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on July 07, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the OAVP Conference Room Transco, SLOM San Vicente Bldg., Laguna.

Deadline for submission of bids is on July 18, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R.A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, July 18, 2006, 9:30 A.M. at the OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation - South Luzon Operations & Maintenance  
Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)  
San Vicente Bldg., Laguna 4024  
Mr. Ruben G. Castuera BAC Chairman  
(02) 981-4578 to 78 local 4094, 4095, 4093  
rgcastuera@ntc.com.ph  
(02) 981-4676 to 78 local 4007  
www.ntc.com.ph

(SGD) RUBEN G. CASTUERA  
BAC Chairman

(PDI-May 21 & 28, 2006)

### Republic of the Philippines

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Transportation and Communications  
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

#### INVITATION TO SUBMIT LETTER OF INTENT

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) is hereby inviting prospective bidders to submit their Letter of Intent to participate in the upcoming procurement of Civil Works Contractors and Equipment Suppliers for the Leguindigan Airport Development Project (LADP).

The project scope may include but not limited to: (i) Construction of new runway and taxiway, (ii) construction of new apron and other airside civil works, (iii) construction of new passenger terminal building and other landside civil works and (iv) provision of new air navigational and other airport equipment.

The bidding procedure shall be in accordance with the International Competitive Bidding stated in the Guidelines for Procurement under the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) Loan. The bidding will commence after the updating of project cost and re-engagement of consulting services.

Submission of Letter of Intent shall not be later than 15 June 2006 addressed to The Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee for Foreign-Assisted Projects, DOTC at Unit 61, 6th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila.

(SGD) ROBERT R. CASTAÑARES  
BAC Chairman

(PDI May 22, 29 and June 05, 2006)

### Republic of the Philippines

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Transportation and Communications  
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

#### INVITATION TO SUBMIT LETTER OF INTENT

The Department of Transportation and Communications is hereby inviting prospective bidders/challengers to submit their Letter of Intent for the "Swiss Challenge" of the proposal to Finance, Design, Construct, Operate and Maintain the planned 23-km MRT Line 7 Project (EDSA/North Avenue, Quezon City to San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan) including its 22-km, road access component (NLEX Bypass Exit to San Jose Del Monte Bulacan) submitted by Universal LRT Corporation (BVI) Ltd., the original proponent of the project, through the Unsolicited Build, Gradual Transfer, Operate and Maintain Scheme, a variant of the Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) mode.

The proposed bidding shall be governed by the BOT Law (R.A. No. 7718) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Submission of Letter of Intent shall not be later than 15 June 2006 addressed to The Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee DOTC at Unit 61, 6th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

(SGD) ROBERT R. CASTAÑARES  
BAC Chairman

(PDI-May 21, 28 & June 5, 2006)



# CURE told to roll out its own 3G network

By Daxim L. Lucas

STARTUP MOBILE PHONE FIRM CONNEXITY Unlimited Resources Enterprise Inc. (CURE) must first roll out its own third-generation (3G) network in line with its commitment to regulators before it can hope to ride on the infrastructure of its competitors, according to regulators.

The statement was made by National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) Commissioner Ronald O. Solis last week, in reaction to CURE's plan to piggyback on the 3G network infrastructure of industry giants Smart Telecommunications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc.

In an interview with reporters, Solis said that while the 3G guidelines issued by the NTC allows for the so-called "co-location" of facilities, CURE must first show its commitment to the business by setting up its initial telecommunications infrastructure.

"The concept of co-location is only for [geographic] areas where it does not make sense to have a duplication of facilities," he said.

Solis envisions such sites to be provincial or rural areas with relatively light 3G communication traffic, such that they would not warrant large investments in multiple base stations to service a limited market.

"In that case, the companies can co-locate," he said, adding that it will be up to the telecommunications firms to discuss among themselves the prices that they would charge competitors for the "rental" of the 3G infrastructure.

So far, Smart and Globe have begun an aggressive rollout program aimed at dominating the local 3G market.

However, Gokongwer-owned Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc. and CURE—owned by former Trade Minister Roberto V. Ongpin—are taking their time in implementing their own 3G programs, preferring to watch from the sidelines as their competitors take the lead.

Earlier, CURE president Eric O. Recio said the company's

plan called for co-location of facilities with its competitors as part of its business strategy.

The NTC chief said he saw nothing wrong with the plan, as long as the company doesn't rely too heavily on this model.

"If you're able to show the NTC that you're compliant [with the 3G rollout plan], we'll even help initiate the network sharing among the companies," Solis said.

For his part, Recio assured the NTC that CURE is on schedule to meet its commitments with the telecommunications regulator.

"We intend to roll out, based on the schedule we submitted to them," he said. "We are in the middle of our tendering process for the first phase of our roll out."

CURE has long been rumored to be allying itself with Hong Kong-based telecommunications powerhouse Hutchison Whampoa for its "pure 3G" business model, although it has yet to make a formal announcement on this matter.

The commission is set to examine the businesses of Smart, Globe, Digitel and CURE to evaluate their compliance with the terms and conditions set out when their licenses were awarded late last year.

## INVITATION TO BID FOR MANPOWER SERVICES

### PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

1. Company Profile - Minimum of (3) years of continuous experience with regional offices in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.
2. Audited financial statements in good financial standing for the last (3) years.
3. Government permits and licenses: DTI, SEC, DOLE

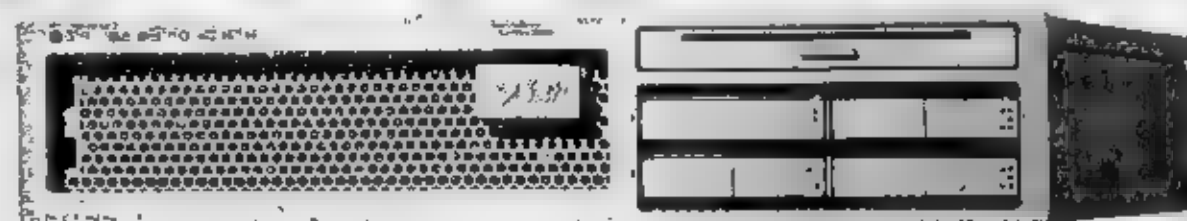
Above requirements must be submitted on or before June 2, 2006.

A Pre-bid Conference shall be held for all qualified bidders at a date to be announced later.

Submit requirements and all inquiries to:  
MR. NOEL TIRO  
Design and Bidding Officer  
8th Floor, UCPB Head Office Bldg., Makati Avenue, Makati City  
Tel. No. 811-9912



**Sun Fire™ X4200 Server**  
Fast. Reliable. and Expandable.  
One- to Four-Way x64 Server



AMD Opteron processors are the most powerful x64 processors on the market, delivering better performance than Xeon processors, and at a much lower cost.

### Highlights:

- Rack-optimized 2U server providing the highest performance levels in its class
- Able to accept the fastest single-core and dual-core AMD Opteron processors
- 8.0 GB/sec. HyperTransport link with 6.0 GB/sec. access between processor and memory
- Four DIMM slots per CPU socket, DDR1/400 ECC registered DIMMs (128-bit plus ECC databus), total eight DIMM slots, up to 8 GB per CPU
- Hot-swappable, 2.5-inch SAS internal disks, RAID 0, 1 on-board, up to four HDDs with DVD-ROM
- Dual redundant, hot-swappable power supply
- Enterprise RAS features for maximum uptime
- Four integrated Gigabit Ethernet ports for maximum network expandability
- More energy-efficient than Xeon servers
- Significant power and cooling savings
- Runs virtually any operating system including the Solaris OS, Linux, and Windows
- I/O expandability for connectivity to multiple devices leading to higher throughput
- Simplified lights out systems management with no hidden costs
- 3-year warranty on parts

Continued to run on the following operating systems:



Or inquire:

Call: +63 2 810.9301

Mr. Francisco Yu (Ext. 100)  
francisco.yu@wsiphil.com.ph

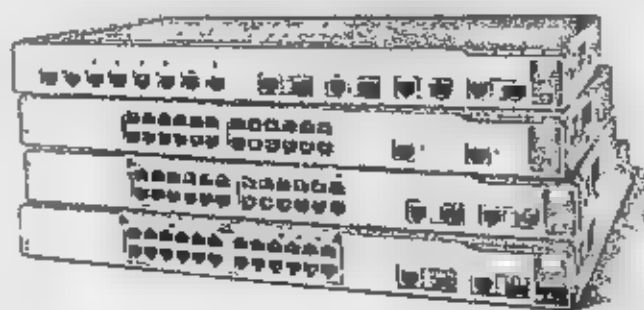
it's our business to make your business grow  
sales@wsiphil.com.ph +63 2 810.9301 +63 2 812.7666

Metro Manila: 7F, SECDCO I Bldg., Parks corner Legarda St., Legarda Village, Makati City. Tel: +63 2 817 8430 email: sales@wsiphil.com.ph  
Metro Cebu: WSI Technologies, Inc. 36 V. Sotto Street, Cebu City. Tel: +63 32 255 1012 to 14 fax: +63 32 255 1011 email: sales@wsiphil.com.ph



## strong foundation

Delivering Simple, Smart, Secure Networking Solutions for Growing Companies



**Clear Choice for Growing Companies**  
The Cisco Foundation provides a solid base for your business. It's the foundation of a strong, secure, and simple network. The Cisco Foundation is the foundation of a strong, secure, and simple network. The Cisco Foundation is the foundation of a strong, secure, and simple network.

**LAMCO**  
Lanco International  
Suite 1004 1st Floor, Exchange Center Bldg., Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines 1605  
Tel No. (632) 834 7200  
Contact person: Barbara Inc. 2525, Jambon Inc. 2506, Inc. 2517, Piny Inc. 2518  
email: sales@lamco.com.ph, barbara@lamco.com.ph  
Website: www.lamco.com.ph

**INGRAM MICRO** Ingram Micro Asia Ltd.  
Philippine Reg. Office Unit 1700, Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines  
Tel No. (632) 833 8882 - Fax No. (632) 836 6465  
Contact person: Sharon Uy and Pao Vito Castillo  
Website: www.ingrammicro.com.ph

**Microwarehouse, Inc.**  
84 United Center First St., Bldg. Kapitan, Pasig City 1600, Philippines  
Tel No. (632) 637-9474 to 85 - Fax No. (632) 630-5720  
Contact person: Head Office  
Website: www.microwarehouse.com.ph

## PLDT seeks ...

From page B7

to, Isberto said

In one proposed economy package, for example, the basic fixed line voice service monthly fee would be set at P300 for residential subscribers. This basic monthly fee remains subject to the currency exchange rate adjustment, or CERA, mechanism.

Subscribers who wish to avail of these economy plans will be levied an incremental P5 per call surcharge for domestic and international long distance calls based on existing per minute rates.

Also, subscribers to the economy plan would not be qualified to enroll in the existing P10 per call unlimited PLDT-PLDT NDD offer or other discounted rates being offered by PLDT.

For economy plan customers who wish to subscribe to either PLDT Vibe Internet dial up service or PLDT DSL broadband Internet service, they will be charged an Internet access fee of P400 per month on top of the basic fixed line voice service fee.

In addition, the existing PLDT Vibe per minute rates or the applicable PLDT DSL monthly fees will be charged.

**TransCo**  
National Transmission Corporation  
Republic of the Philippines

### Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS CABLES PB660428-LE0073/PH NO. PH-EDC-06-000020433

1. The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, Head Office Region (TRANS-CO-HO) through the 2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board intends to apply the sum of P8P 10,710,979.20 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for PB660428-LE0073/PH NO. PH-EDC-06-000020433, Supply and Delivery of Various Cables. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. Award shall be on a lot basis.
2. The TRANS-CO-HO now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Supply and Delivery of Various Cables. Delivery of the GOODS is required within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of the approved Purchase Order/Contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below from May 26, 2006 to June 20, 2006 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P20,000.00. The method of payment will be Cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The TRANS-CO-HO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on June 07, 2006, 3:30 P.M. at the address below.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before June 21, 2006/10:00 A.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the following forms and amount or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%) or P107,106.79
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1-1/2%) or P160,664.68
3. Surety bond	Two and a half percent (2-1/2%) or P267,774.48
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (100%) or P107,106.79

7. Bid opening shall be on June 21, 2006/10:00 AM at the Address Conference Room same address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

8. The National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region  
Mr. Armando H. Ochoa, SAC Chairman  
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.  
Power Center Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road  
Dikman, Quezon City  
Tel. No. (632) 9812205/(632) 9812241  
Fax No. (632) 9228432  
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO H. OCHOA  
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PD) - May 29 & June 5, 2006



# Packaging firm defaults on debts, say banks

## Steniel's creditors mulling over foreclosure of assets

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CREDITOR BANKS LED BY Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Chinatrust Commercial Bank and Bank of the Philippine Islands have declared packaging firm Steniel Manufacturing Corp. (Steniel) "in default" of debts worth at least P690 million.

According to sources in the banking, the creditors are now reviewing their options, which may include foreclosing on Steniel's assets or going into negotiations to find other ways by which the company can repay its debts.

The Inquirer last Friday tried to reach Steniel's office in Cavite but was told that there were no officials present at the time.

This development came about shortly after the company announced the management buy-out of shares in its parent firm.

Steniel (Belgium) Holdings NV sold its 100 percent stake in Steniel (Netherlands) Holdings BV to certain directors and officers of the publicly listed firm.

Since Steniel Netherlands owns 82.3 percent of Steniel, the sale has in effect, placed the said ownership of Steniel into the hands of the local management, sources said.

Steniel Belgium is the holding company owned by Europe and Asia invested advisory firm CVC Capital Partners Asia Pacific LP and Asia Investors LLC.

Steniel however said in its disclosure that while the parties involved in the deal have signed a share purchase agreement, the

shares of the Dutch holding firm have not been transferred to the buyers pending completion of various requirements.

Steniel told the Philippine Stock Exchange that Steniel Belgium's sale of shares was conducted in order to give directors and officers of the local firm more flexibility in the operations and management of the business.

Banking sources however said that the Belgian firm simply wanted out.

The sources also said that the announced deal shocked creditors since they received a formal offer in January from Steniel Belgium proposing to sell its shares to them.

The offer did not carry a deadline. Between January and May, creditors claimed they were looking for an investor to take over the shares, which they planned to purchase from Steniel Belgium.

Steniel has three manufacturing plants located in Cavite, Cebu and Davao. It manufactures paper products, paper board and corrugated carton containers.

Steniel technically has been in default for the last two years. But creditors said they tended to overlook this technicality since there had been discussions on how to settle the debts through a share purchase. Later, it was agreed that the firm would be turned over to an interested investor.

In October 2000, Metro Pacific Corp. and Philippine International Paper Corp. sold their combined 72.6 percent in Steniel to Steniel Netherlands.



### EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The blind man on the left waits for his companion, paraplegic Enriqueto Religio, to finish filling up a job application form from his wheelchair. Religio hopes to repair cellular phones someday. Persons with disabilities who are looking for work are provided pre-employment counseling, and livelihood seminars during a job fair at the Occupational Safety and Health Center in Quezon City.

UNWILLON

## ADB scraps \$200-M currency swap with RP

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT Bank said the proposed \$200-million currency swap arrangement with the Philippine government would no longer push through after both parties failed to agree on the terms of the deal.

"There is no more currency swap deal," ADB country director Thomas Crouch told reporters. "The ADB has withdrawn the offer."

The currency swap arrangement, which was even approved by the central bank's Monetary Board, was proposed in 2004 supposedly to provide the government cheaper source of foreign currency, thus reducing the cost of paying the country's external debts.

Under the proposal, the ADB would issue dollar-denominated bonds, the proceeds from which would be swapped for pesos with the Philippine government.

The dollars were supposed to help beef up the government's foreign currency holdings at cheaper cost, while the pesos received by the ADB were intended for relending to domestic banks.

Crouch did not identify the terms of the deal that the ADB and the Philippine government failed to agree on, but officials from the Department of Finance earlier said they were hoping the ADB would lower the cost of the deal.

Authorities would not disclose the cost entailed in the proposed arrangement, but the DOF said the cost for the government would only be similar to commercial rates.

Negotiations over the terms of the agreement dragged on since 2004. Last week, ADB finally declared that the proposed swap arrangement was dead.

The currency swap deal between the Philippines and the ADB would have been the first for both parties. When discussions over the swap arrangement were still in their initial stages, the ADB had said it might establish similar deals with other countries.

Other lending firms, including the World Bank, were reported to have been monitoring the developments of the proposed currency swap arrangement for possible entry into similar deals.

But while the deal has already been canceled, Crouch said the ADB was willing to provide more official development assistance to the Philippines given the country's improving fiscal climate.

"[The government's] fiscal position is improving so things are looking brighter for [ADB] to be able to expand our engagement," he said.

The ADB is the country's second-biggest source of ODA, after the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

## BOI grants tax perks to Smart's P33.18-B 3G project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS has granted tax perks to telecommunications giant Smart Communications Inc. for its P33.18-billion third-generation cellular mobile phone project.

BOI had earlier approved the similar project of Globe Telecom, for which it intends to spend P5.48 billion.

According to the BOI, Smart's investment was given pioneer status due to the huge amounts involved.

A pioneer status means Smart is qualified for a six-year tax holiday, duty-free importation of capital goods and other fiscal and non-fiscal incentives.

Smart plans to raise 81 percent of the required outlay from stockholder equity and the rest through borrowing.

The 3G project would create 107 new jobs and is expected to start commercial operations in July.

Based on the company's application, Smart expects its 3G subscriber base to grow steadily from

half a million in the project's first year to 8.6 million by the sixth year.

In the same period, revenues are expected to grow from P900 million to P28.1 billion while capital expenditures, which would depend on actual subscriber take up, is seen to reach an average of P5.4 billion a year.

Smart plans to make available its 3G service starting with Metro Manila—especially the central business districts, airports, malls and hotels—and Cebu and Davao as well as popular tourist spots.

The service would then gradually reach out to capital cities and towns in the provinces and then to other cities and towns.

In January, the National Telecommunications Commission assigned Smart its desired 3G frequency bands that the firm said would help hasten its delivery of 3G services to the public.

3G technology and services would allow users to hear and see the party they are contacting—both here and abroad—watch television shows and enjoy faster Internet connection while mobile.

Company officials have said that frequency bands that they asked for—1920-1935 Megahertz and 2110-2125 MHz—had the least amount of interference and was located at the best position in the 3G frequency spectrum.

They said these would allow for the clearest possible over-the-air transmission.

Other companies preparing their 3G systems are Digital Telecommunications Philippines and Connectivity Unlimited Resource Enterprise.

## By raising fees, PCA gets to hike income by P100M a year

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY (PCA) has announced plans to increase its fees by six centavos per kilo which will, in effect, jack up its income by P100 million a year.

PCA Administrator Oscar Garin said that the fee would now be 12 centavos for every kilo of coconut oil exported. The proceeds would be used to augment the agency's funds.

"We obtained the go-signal from the Department of Finance to increase our fees by six centavos, so long as there is a program to be implemented for its utilization," Garin said.

He added that the PCA would conduct consultations with industry millers before implementing it.

Local oil millers—members of the United Coconut Association of the Philippines (Ucap) and the Philippine Coconut Oil Producers Association (Pcopa)—are questioning the fee increase at a time when a supply glut in the world market has pulled down coconut oil prices.

"We hope they should consider our present circumstances before they implement the fee hike," according to an industry official. "It would be untimely at this time."

The finance department favored the increase in PCA's fees, on condition that strict monitoring of the Department of Agriculture should be implemented.

According to letter from DOF Undersecretary Gil S. Beltran dated April 7, the fee increase would be allowed under certain conditions.

The DOF said that a program for the development of the Philippine coconut industry must be established and this should focus on the upgrading of small coconut farmers' entrepreneurial skills.

"There must be an approval, by the DA of the PCA programs and desired outcomes to be funded by the 6-centavo increase," the DOF said.

The DOF also warned that there is a pending case before a Quezon City Regional Trial Court against the PCA filed by the Pcopa regarding the hike in PCA fees.

## Transco concession bid set for September

By Abigail L. Ho

BIDDING FOR THE 25-YEAR NATIONAL Transmission Corp. (Transco) concession may finally take place in September, following two failed auctions in 2003 and a negotiated bid in 2004 which the government eventually scrapped.

According to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (PSALM), interested investors have until mid-July to submit their expressions of interest. The transaction documents for the auction are already available.

Only firms or groups that will pre-qualify will be allowed to participate in the actual bidding in September.

To pre-qualify, a potential bidder should have a member or affiliate with a net asset value or market capitalization of at least \$500 million.

They also have to have a member or affiliate "with sufficient experience in operating and maintaining electricity trans-

mission systems comparable to that of the Philippines, with at least 6,000 circuit kilometers and a minimum 5,000 megawatts peak demand and a voltage level of 115 kilovolts (kV) to 230 kV."

For interested foreign firms, they have to enter into partnerships with Filipino entities to enable them to comply with the 60-40 equity rule under the Constitution.

These potential foreign investors should have a net asset value or market capitalization of at least \$175 million, and their Filipino partners should have \$300 million.

"The \$500-million market capitalization was set to optimize the Transco assets and to ensure the earnestness of investors interested in bidding for the transmission company, including its operation and maintenance," PSALM president Neves Osorio said in a statement.

Apart from the technical and financial qualifications, interested bidders should also comply with the RA 9136, or Electric

Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, mandate that they should not have any interest in electricity generation, distribution or supply, whether directly or indirectly.

Osorio said the upcoming auction had a bigger chance of success than the past ones, due mainly to certain "significant developments."

She noted that there was greater regulatory certainty now, with the Energy Regulatory Commission's expected release of Transco's regulated asset base (RAB) on June 16.

The RAB will be the basis for Transco's annual maximum allowable revenue, which will determine the transmission wheeling rates, the main source of revenue for the Transco concessionaire.

In an earlier interview, Osorio said several foreign firms were eyeing the Transco concession, including a Canadian firm and some American firms.

"The British, who have left before, are now reconsidering," she said.

## BSP sees end to disturbances in peso bond market

By Doris C. Dumiao

THE TURBULENCE IN THE LOCAL peso bond market that has spooked retail investors of unit investment trust funds is now tapering off, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. ruled out proposals for the BSP to open a liquidity window for Philippine UITFs, which had been adversely affected by the global sell-down on assets of emerging markets over the last three weeks.

"The market can very well take care of itself," Espenilla told reporters at the closing of the 45th AIC World Congress on Saturday. "What happened over the last few days was abnormal so it's expected that things would get back to normal."

Money market traders said intervention by the Bureau of Treasury, through the buyback of five-year and 10-year Treasury bonds, which were mostly the underlying assets of UITFs, had helped stabilize the markets. However, some traders warned of moral hazards arising from such intervention.

Espenilla also noted that the BSP likewise had enough monetary tools to ward off speculation, not just in the foreign exchange but in local bond interest rates as well.

"The exchange rate is the price of our currency expressed in foreign exchange terms," Espenilla said. "Interest is another price of our money expressed in time value."

"Our basic mandate is to maintain price stability. Under its normal mandate, if there's excess volatility in key price markets, the BSP has options to maintain order in the market."

The BSP has warned banks against overselling UITFs, or pooled trust funds in acceptable currencies operated by a trust entity.

Unlike the common trust funds, these funds are exempted from reserve requirement as they are independent from the bank proper.

They realistically reflect underlying market values.

"It's an option for the BSP as monetary authority to maintain financial stability and to use its open market tools to curb excess volatility in interest rates," Espenilla said.

However, Espenilla declined to say whether the BSP had actually exercised such option to buy back peso bonds over the last few days.

While government intervention had helped stabilize the local bond markets, some market players warned of the adverse impact of excessive interference.

"I'm very much against any form of intervention," International Exchange Bank treasurer Ed Bunyi said. "There's clear moral hazard in that."

"Imagine investors coming in (UITFs) and expecting they could be bailed out when things go wrong," Bunyi added. "Maybe [the government] shouldn't have allowed the interest rates to come down too low in the first place."

Across the region, recent dramatic moves have brought emerging market

assets back to more attractive levels.

"The markets' correction has reined in some of the excesses—in metals, gold and emerging debt—and automatic stabilizers have kicked in. [In the form of] lower bond yields, weaker foreign exchange rates, which will cur external deficits," American Express Bank said in a commentary sent on Saturday.

Amex said major markets had stabilized last week and the sell-offs seen were more of a technical correction rather than the beginning of a prolonged bear market.

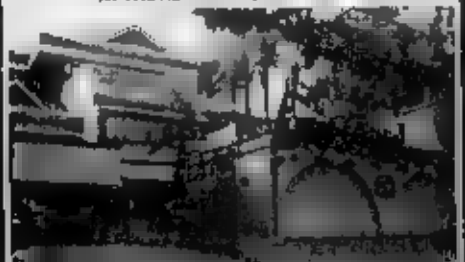
"But the worries over the global environment which contributed to the sharp deterioration in global risk appetite in the past few weeks will not go away in a hurry," Amex said.

"The global upswing is also in mid-cycle stage, when capacity is tightening and macro news flow at the margin may deteriorate, or is less likely to surprise on the upside," Amex said. "Investors continuing to fret about growth, inflation and the dollar will keep volatility high."



**ATTENTION!**  
**REAL ESTATE PRACTITIONERS**

YOU ARE INVITED TO MARKET CONDOMINIUM UNITS  
IN THIS PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL MANSION  
AT THE HEART OF QUEZON CITY



Units are finished and furnished  
and **READY FOR OCCUPANCY**

YOU ARE INVITED TO MARKET THIS ON-GOING FIRST CLASS  
BEACHFRONT CONDOMINIUM RESORT DEVELOPMENT  
LOCATED IN NORTHERN QUEZON



FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE CALL OR TEXT  
**(0917) 535-1387**

**More Classifieds**  
on Page A10, B10 & B1

**FOR SALE****A 1 Condition Precision Tooling Machinery**

- 1 unit - WIRECUT 5 axes CNC Charmilles Robofil Model 290P  
0.1 and 0.25 wire guides
- 2 units - EDM Sinker Machine  
ARD Model M30E

Please contact: **0917 814 1838**

**BUY \* SELL \* PAWN  
WATCHES  
JEWELRY  
DIAMONDS**

BEST OFFER  
IN TOWN  
8342886  
8040484

**FOUR YEAR BACHELOR**

Complete Package  
(with manpower &  
location assistance)

CPN 0377042280

**FREE B.A. DEGREE  
FOR TOP 10% GRADUATES**

www.smarcollege.net  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN  
**NURSING**

Accepting Applications to  
All Year Level  
School Year 2006-07  
(Classes begin: June 26, 2006)  
Transfer Students  
WILL RECEIVE FULL CREDIT FOR  
COURSES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED  
AT OTHER SCHOOLS SUBJECT  
TO OUR EVALUATION AND REVIEW

CPN 0377042280

**COMMERCIAL  
LOT**

**FOR LEASE/  
SALE/JOINT  
VENTURE  
IN STA. ROSA,  
LAGUNA**

4 has. across

SEE LISTING FOR DETAILS

100% Investment

For information  
please call:  
**815-8632 or  
0917 535-1387**

**OBITUARIES****Our Dearly Beloved****Sisenando "Andoy" Rivera Dimaliwat**

Peacefully joined our Lord and his wife *Candelaria G. Dimaliwat*  
on May 26, 2006 at the age of 78.

His children Bernardo and Eufelia, Roberto and Noemi Celerina, Edgardo and Mary Rose, Belinda and Arsenio, Renato and Irene; sister Ma. Socorro and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Narra Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, May 31, 2006  
at 9:00 AM at the Manila Memorial Park,  
Sucat, Parañaque

**PAWN \* BUY \* SELL  
JEWELRY  
WATCHES**

BEST APPRAISAL

Agencia

**I am the way,  
the truth and the  
life. No one comes to  
the Father  
except through Me.**  
John 14:6

**An obituary with a picture  
can be a fitting tribute  
to your departed loved one.**

Always caring  
**INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

**OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:**  
• Copy of Death Certificate  
• Any identification document (I.D.)

**Cresencia Pamintuan-Rolda**

September 17, 1922 - May 26, 2006  
Died in the grace of the Lord on May 26, 2006 at 8:40 p.m.  
at Unciano Medical Hospital, Antipolo

Her bereaved children Rodrigo & Realidad Santico, Diana Maria, Ana Maria and Elizabeth and Victor de los Santos; her niece Angelina Walo, nephews Conrado and Bernardo Reyes, her grandchildren Luisito (T), Pag-asia Landas, Buhay Landas, Ani Umaga and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapel I in Guadalupe, Makati City

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 30, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. at Manila Memorial Park - Parañaque after the 1:00 p.m. funeral mass at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe.

**OBITUARIES****RUFINO CO**

Passed away peacefully in the Grace of our Lord  
on May 26, 2006 at the age of 77.

His loving wife *Isai Siu Luen*, children *Lieng Seng, Juanito, Conchita, Margaret, Rosaline*, Daughters-in-law *Julie Tan, Deborah Tsang*, Sons-in-law *Johnston Ngo (T), Tun Chung Ng, Philemon Ty*, grandchildren; brother & sisters, nephew & nieces, relatives and friends request to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will lie in state at the Funeraria Paz-Manila, Chapel 5.

Interment will be on May 31, 2006 at 9:00 am. Cremation will follow at the Chinese Cemetery.

**People, Events & Products****Volvo rolls on to Cebu**

PASAJERO MOTORS CORP (PAMOCOR) formally launched Volvo Cebu when it opened its showroom doors last April 21, in Mandaue City. The whole-day affair opened with the official inauguration and blessing in the morning followed by the symbolic ribbon-cutting ceremony officiated by Hon. Governor Gwendolyn Garcia. Volvo Car Asia Pacific regional business director Jack Zaal, along with Volvo Manila officers lent their support to the new addition in the Volvo stable. Among the guests of honor are Cebu Mayor Tomas Osmeña and Mandaue City Councilor Glen Bercede.

To celebrate the entrance of Volvo in the region, guests enjoyed a night of pure energy and exhilaration at the Surprisingly Volvo event. The celebration revolved around the fresh new look and outlook of Volvos. Gone were the boxy edges and instead replaced by sleek lines and even sexier curves of the Swedish automotive fleet. Spearheading the pack is three of the most vibrant models available, the humble Volvo S40 compact sedan, the robust Volvo XC70 Cross Country, and the award-winning Volvo SUV, the XC90. These models pack a mighty punch with varying degrees of horsepower that leave other cars in the dust. These spirited Volvos spelled out style and substance when they entered the limelight with three

of Cebu's most driven personalities: maverick entrepreneur Francis Iliban, Zee columnist Leigh Carcel and sportsman Glen Soco.

Pamocor, in the automotive business for 22 years, is renowned for its creative innovation - the Pasajero Jeepney. The company's vision to be one of the top automotive manufacturers in the country has inspired the people behind the corporation to work together and pool their ideas to build a company that creates a customer-oriented product. Backed by a reliable partnership with the sole distributor and authorized dealer of Volvo cars in the Philippines, Viking Cars, Incorporated, Pamocor has now ventured further to provide for the needs of the burgeoning premium car market in Cebu and other nearby cities, and makes available to the market one of the world's most safe and dynamic cars - Volvo.

The new Volvo Cebu showroom exudes the quality one would expect from a premium car manufacturer. One can witness Volvo's unique Scandinavian heritage, evident in every design detail from the light, bright open areas, with white as the dominant color, to the natural warmth created through the use of lightwood. The showroom reflects beautiful functionality central to the Volvo design philosophy. Nothing is lavish or expensive, but confident, understated

and considered. Ultimately, Volvo creates an environment that is as relaxing and rewarding as behind the wheel of their cars. The experience inside Volvo Cebu features a line-up of cars that create space to give people an insight into each model's distinct character.

A lot more is in store for Cebu and other neighboring regions as Volvo rolls on to bring automotive excellence and customer service in this part of the country. Along with other offerings such as the pre-owned and accessory facilities, Volvo buyers have more options to enjoy their decision to purchase a Volvo. With the support of the Volvo Manila office, the official distributor of Volvo cars in the Philippines, Viking Cars Inc (VCI) expresses confidence in Pamocor that with its usual dedication to excellence, it will thus push forward and strengthen the Volvo brand in the Queen City of the South.

In Manila, Viking Cars Inc is the official distributor of Volvo cars. Volvo Cebu is located at A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City. The 2006 Volvo-automobile line includes the compact All-New S40 and V50 Sportswagon, sporty S60, the flagship S80 luxury sedan, the rugged XC70 Cross Country and the award-winning XC90 AWD. For details and inquiries, please call (032) 346-3322 or 0916-6873657.

**CONVERGYS DONATES TO RED CROSS**

Convergys Corp (NYSE: CVG), the country's largest employer of knowledge workers, extended a helping hand to victims of the Southern Leyte landslide with a donation to the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) of over P640,000. Photo shows PNRC Chair Senator Richard J. Gordon accepting the check donation from Convergys vice president and country manager Marife Zamora (left) with members of the PNRC Board of Governors. With them are (from left) Secretary General Corazon Alma G. De Leon, Gov. Bai Fatima Sinsuat; Convergys human re-



sources director Anna V. Iamor, former Los Baños mayor Gov. Andrew Nocar, Justice Leonor Ines Luciano, PNRC Gov. Lourdes Loyola and Gov. Lourdes Casas Quezon

**WSI, AYALA CENTER CEBU PARTNER FOR AUTO SHOW**

Worldbox Services Int'l (WSI) has finalized its agreement with Ayala Center Cebu, making the latter a supporting partner for the WSI-organized 1st Cebu Auto Show, slated on June 1-4 at the Ayala Center, Cebu City. Present at the agreement signing were (from left): Jarico Antonio, Ayala Center Cebu marketing supervisor; Ju-vita Pollosa, Ayala Center Cebu marketing manager; Joseph Ang, WSI founding chair; Jill Anthony Ang, WSI managing director; Edward Diamonon, WSI vice president.





# INFOTECH

Text us your feedback: inquirer@nameage.com.ph to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

## SF Chronicle offers podcast for Filipinos

Erwin Oliva  
Contributor

ANOTHER FILIPINO-ORIENTED podcast has emerged, this time from US-based newspaper San Francisco Chronicle.

The podcast, dubbed Pinoy Pod, is a weekly program that features interviews, news and information about the Filipino experience in Northern California and the Philippines, according to the US newspaper's website.

People can download or listen to the Pinoy Pod at [www.sfgate.com/blogs/podcasts](http://www.sfgate.com/blogs/podcasts).

A podcast is a radio show that one can listen to or download from the Internet. It can be played on one's computer or downloaded to a portable digital music player, such as the popular iPod.

The first episode highlights Joey Ayala's rendition of the Star Spangled Banner in Filipino, and the subsequent interview with him on why he translated the American anthem into Filipino.

The first episode also fea-

tures the famous Filipino stand-up comedian Rex Navarette who uses the Filipino culture as basis for his sketches.

The podcast episodes are mainly in English but the Filipino language will in the future be used to reach more Filipinos, the podcast's proponents said.

Pinoy Pod is a product of the San Francisco Chronicle's Filipino journalists. These are deputy managing editor Leslie Guevarra, editorial writer and columnist Pati Poblete, podcast producer Benny Evangelista, business reporter and Pinoy Pod producer Ben Pimentel, reporter Cicero Estrella and copy editor Michelle Louie.

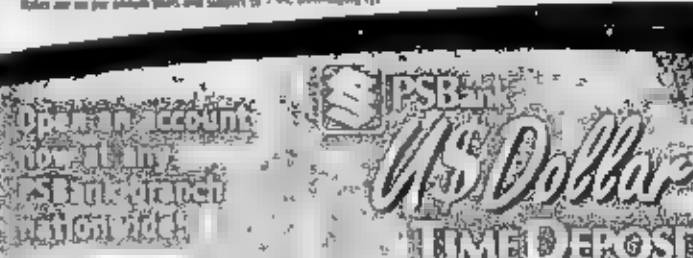
Pinoy Pod will include topics on arts, culture, entertainment, business and political and social issues. It will run from 10 to 20 minutes, and will be updated every Tuesdays.

According to the San Francisco Chronicle, this is the first time a major American newspaper is offering a podcast for Filipinos.

## Your \$ can earn more with PSBank's HIGHER RATES

	\$1,000 to 9,999	\$10,000 to 49,999	\$50,000 to 99,999	\$100,000 and up
1 month	3.00%	3.13%	3.25%	3.50%
2 months	3.13%	3.25%	3.38%	3.63%
3 months	3.25%	3.38%	3.50%	3.75%
6 months	3.38%	3.50%	3.63%	3.88%
12 months	3.50%	3.63%	3.75%	4.00%

\*Based on any subject to change without prior notice. Rates are for per annum basis and subject to 7% withholding tax.



Text PSBANK USD0 <your name> <deadline no.> <email address> then send to 391-772 for Smart or 0917-8902327 for Globe and other networks. Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum deposit insured per depositor P250,000.

# LINKSYS

A Division of Cisco Systems, Inc.

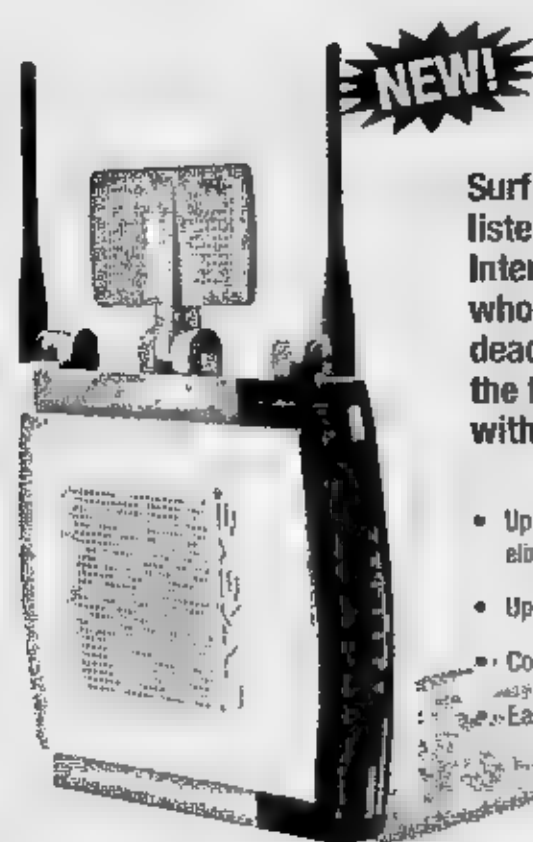
## Wireless-N

### The Freedom to Do It All!

Internet. Voice. Entertainment - All at Once. Anywhere.



WRT300N  
Wireless-N  
Broadband  
Router



Surf the web, enjoy high definition video, listen to your digital music collection, and make Internet phone calls - all at the same time. With whole-home coverage that virtually eliminates dead spots, Wireless-N (draft 802.11n) delivers the freedom to work and play everywhere, without the hassle of running new wires.

- Up to 4X the range for whole-home coverage that virtually eliminates dead spots.
- Up to 12X the speed of the older Wireless-G standard.
- Compatible with existing Wireless-G and -B products.
- Easy to install and easy to use. Set it and forget it.

Philippines Toll Free Mon-Fri, Sat-Sun  
1-800 1-114-1695

Linksys. Nobody makes networking easier!

Visit [www.linksys.com](http://www.linksys.com) today for product details.

Cisco Systems - Email: [asiasupport@linksys.com](mailto:asiasupport@linksys.com)

Distributors:  
**INGRAM  
MICRO**

Tel: (632) 633-8902  
Fax: (632) 635-6485

**MICROWAREHOUSE**

Head Office Tel: (632) 637 0474 85  
Email: [inquiry@microwarehouse.com](mailto:inquiry@microwarehouse.com)

Cebu Office Tel: (032) 253 1026/253 3358  
Davao Office Tel: (082) 222 2192

Cisco Systems

# APC

Legendary Reliability™

## APC. Always a step ahead...

With more than a hundred awards for product and business excellence, consistent market share\* leadership, and exceptional post-sales support\*\*, APC (American Power Conversion) is synonymous worldwide and in the Philippines with top-notch back-up power and data center infrastructure solutions.



When it comes to critical information, you can only trust the market leader. For desktop and data center power solutions, APC is always a step ahead.

And we couldn't have done this without our customers and partners who have placed APC as the clear market winner over its competitors.

\*According to the study entitled "Philippines UPS Market" published by Frost & Sullivan, the global business consulting company. APC was the leading UPS supplier in the last 10 years in 2005.

\*\*The APC On-Site Backup Swap Policy: Free delivery and pick-up of defective equipment. Swap with corresponding equipment model. Available on all BackUPS, SmartUPS and Symmetra models. Nationwide coverage. Equipment should be under warranty. To avail of this service, contact APC's toll-free number at 1-800-451-6882 or 916-5452 (press 2).

## ...from desktop to data center.



APC Distributors:

**AMERICAN BONDING INC.**  
Tel. No. 723-0801

**innovista technologies**  
Tel. No. 723-4278

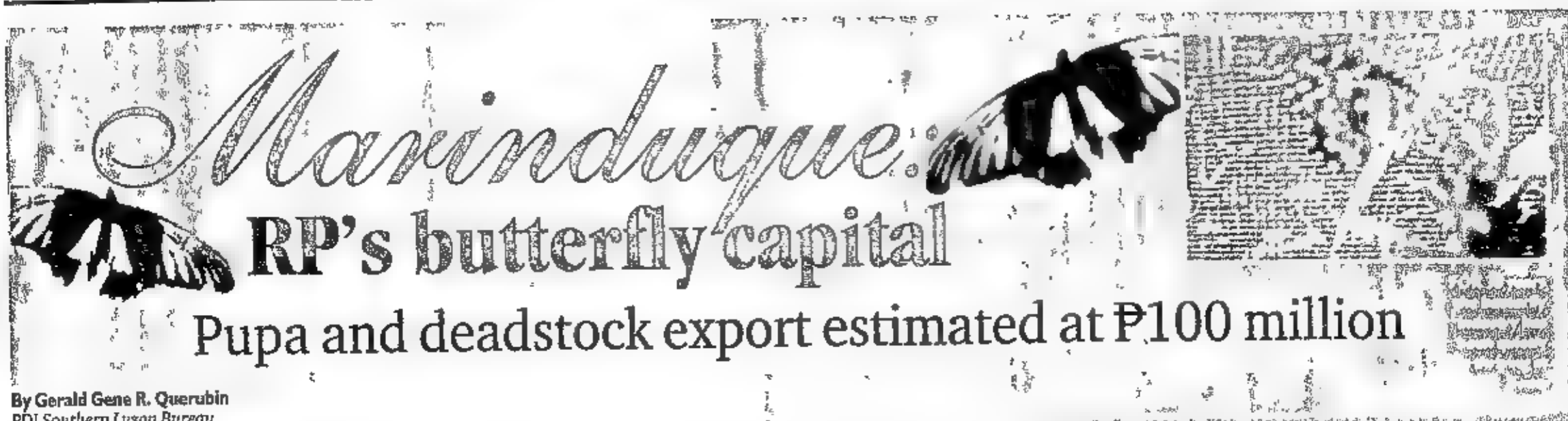
**MSI-ECS**  
(Power APC Online 24/7)  
Tel. No. 888-3810

Register at [www.apc-asean.com/ph/pdi](http://www.apc-asean.com/ph/pdi) and get free CDs on APC product solutions and white papers. See website for more information.



# BUSINESSMonday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino



By Gerald Gene R. Querubin  
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

**B**OAC, MARINDUQUE—Unknown to many, the island province of Marinduque is considered the Butterfly Capital of the Philippines, contributing 85 percent of the country's butterfly and pupa exports.

More than three-fourths of the butterfly breeders nationwide are based in this province.

Butterfly farming started only recently but is fast becoming an international growth industry with estimates of P100 million worth of Philippine exports.

Worldwide, the market is estimated at \$100 million.

#### Framed crafts

Prof. Emma Cabardo of the Marinduque State College (MSC), says the butterfly industry in Marinduque started 30 years ago.

From a single livelihood project in the '70s, it has grown into an industry. The introduction of the processing of dead stocks into finished products like laminated and framed crafts, has become a remarkable development of the industry.

In a study made in 2002 by three undergraduate students from MSC—Heredina Monteras, Cherry Evangelista and Magdao Valenzuela—they indicated a positive outlook for the butterfly industry of the province.

According to their study, the industry generated an estimated sale of about P100 million from export of pupa and deadstock by exporters in Marinduque in 2001.

Exported pupa, based on the records of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau of the DENR, increased from only 4,021 pupa exported in 1991 to 71,068 in 1992 and 153,864 in 1993.

More recent figures from the Marinduque Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office, show the province's exports of butterfly pupa and deadstock have substantially risen the last three years.

The volume was 576,460 in 2003, 644,480 in 2004 and 974,720 in 2005.

No records are available on export values.

#### Cultured butterflies

In a paper by Jason Weintraub of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, USA, he stated that studies of the lifecycle of butterflies in the tropical rainforest had resulted in cottage industry "farms" where live butterflies are cultured under controlled conditions to provide supply of pupae.

Weintraub wrote a Malayan entomologist, David Goth, pioneered butterfly farming in the 80s.

It is labor-intensive but has resulted in large-scale production of parasitic-free pupae for export.

Dr. Carlos J. Andam, MSC vice president for research and extension, says with growing interests of many people to venture into butterfly farming and the development of products and market for this commodity, there is now a need to identify the species of butterflies in the wilderness and their host plants to sustain production and to compete with other countries in exports.

In the butterfly industry, sustainability is a function of diversity of butterfly species and their host plants, he says.

"Each kind of butterfly feeds only on one specific plant and the female butterfly will lay her eggs only on the plant it feeds on," Andam adds.

He has been advocating for the establishment of a National Butterfly Research Center in the province to support and reinforce the province's butterfly farmers with their production.

#### Products

According to Andam, butterfly products range from deadstocks or papered adult butterflies used in exhibits and mounted on frames; pupa and livestock for release during special occasions; and butterfly houses in parks, tourist spots, museums and recreation centers.

Deadstocks are also used in manufacturing décor products such as lampshades, clocks, and paper weights, among other items.

"With the developments in butterfly farming, people should now have a new way of looking at the forest. People like butterfly enthusiasts are certain to discover that there is much that they can sensibly obtain from the natural vegetation if protected, managed and utilized wisely. The forest is a far more valuable resource that it was overexploited for one of its parts. And butterflies are helping show people the way, as it is in Marinduque," adds Andam.

## Looking for a home loan?

ENJOY  
**LOWER**  
Interest Rates

Plus  
Never go beyond 11.5%<sup>p.a.\*</sup>  
**GUARANTEED!**

#### With METROBANK METROHOME RATE PROTECT PLUS

you can have the flexibility of annual repricing and enjoy rates as low as 9% p.a.<sup>\*\*</sup> without going beyond 11.5% p.a.<sup>\*</sup> for the first 5 years. On the 6th up to the 10th year of the loan, enjoy fixed prices of 9.5% p.a.<sup>\*</sup>. So don't be misled at a lower rate for the first 5 years.

**METROHOME**  
Rate Protect Plus

\*Guaranteed rate cap applicable for the first 10 years of the loan.

\*\*Based on prevailing one year market rate. Subject to change without prior notice.

Member of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Deposits insured up to P250,000 per depositor. Over 800 domestic and international branches, offices and subsidiaries. Head office: Metrobank Plaza, San Gil Poyat Ave., Makati City.

www.metrobank.com.ph



You're in good hands with

**METROBANK**



# Road then less traveled by bankers proved to be gold mine

## Story of a rural bank that started half a century ago

By Peter L. Julian  
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN FERNANDO CITY—"DO NOT gamble. If a client sees you on the gambling table, he will always think you are gambling with his deposits."

The advice still rings true in the mind of Ives Nisce, president and chief executive officer of Rang-y Bank. It was given to him by his late father, Rodolfo, long before the son took over the helm of Ilocandia's most successful rural bank.

The young Nisce, a 1973 economics graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University, obeyed his father and stayed away from gambling, developing instead a liking for sports like golf which he plays with friends at a golf course in the former Wallace Air Station here.

In the fairways, ideas come to him on how to run a bank efficiently and how to make it responsive to the needs of the times.

The advice also served as a guiding principle for Nisce in steering the bank. Never gamble with the clients' money by going into ventures other than those aimed at improving the socio-economic life of the people in the countryside.

"And the fulfillment of that mission is the secret of our success in Rang-y," Nisce tells the INQUIRER.

"We live up to our name," he adds. Rang-y is the Ilocano word for progress.

To maintain its position as number one in countryside banking in the Ilocos region, Pangasinan and the Cordillera, Rang-y set up in 1956, tries to be "progressive" in its ideas.

With him calling the shots, Rang-y Bank has earned the



NISCE

moniker, the "hard-working bank," as it puts on longer office hours, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., without noon break; and opens on Saturdays. Most Manila-based banks open at 9 a.m., close at 3 p.m. and are closed on Saturdays.

### Humble beginnings

The only gambling Rang-y Bank was involved in was that done by its founders when they decided to put up a bank in the countryside—then considered a nonviable enterprise.

"But our pioneering incorporators were imbued with a sense of mission to serve the farmers, fisher folk, market vendors, even micro-entrepreneurs," Nisce, now in his early 50s, says.

Rang-y Bank's first depositors and borrowers came from these sectors that were not considered "bankable" by financial institutions, he says.

The first branch was in the old Nisce ancestral home on Gov. Luna Street in San Fernando.

Depositors from the surrounding towns and villages would come to the bank carrying their ware in large bayong (native bags made of coconut fronds) laden

with fish, vegetables and even live chicken, says Nisce, quoting his mother, Eufrosina, the bank chair.

There were only two banks in La Union at that time: Rang-y Bank and the government-owned Philippine National Bank. But even with only one competitor, it was hard to convince people to deposit their money with Rang-y, Nisce says.

### Birth pains

Rang-y Bank experienced the usual pains of growing up in its first year. But it has a built-in advantage: The good name of Nisce's family, who founded the bank. His grandfather, Antonio Querol, a native of Vigan, Ilocos Sur, was San Fernando's first town doctor, while his grandmother, Numerana Tavora-Querol, was a civic leader of Agoo, La Union.

Soon depositors and borrowers came marching in and increased in number. Eventually, Rang-y Bank, which started operations on Jan. 12, 1956 with four employees, grew and was ready to expand to other areas where its services were needed.

Nisce's father, Rodolfo, a lawyer and former member of the La Union provincial board, was Rang-y Bank's first general manager. He also acted as collector, inspector and appraiser.

Nisce's mother, Eufrosina, was the teller who doubled as cashier, while Lorenzo Flores was the bookkeeper, and Melania Carmello was the secretary. The bank could not afford to hire a security guard.

### Less traveled road

Needless to say, what other bankers then avoided as a less traveled road (countryside bank-

ing) proved to be Rang-y's gold mine.

In 1962, with more employees and more depositors and borrowers, the bank moved to a more spacious building in the city.

That year, the Central Bank granted it the authority to accept demand deposits, making it one of the country's rural banks to offer such facility.

Several years later, it was given the authority to offer other services like granting loans to small and medium entrepreneurs, farmers, especially those engaged in tobacco production.

For its operational efficiency and phenomenal growth, Rang-y Bank was awarded by the Central Bank as one of the "outstanding rural banks" in 1975.

Years later, as it continued to excel in countryside banking, Rang-y Bank would receive awards like the golden award of excellence bestowed on it by Equitable PCI Bank. On Oct. 16, 2003, the bank was cited as the most outstanding countryside financial institution in the Ilocos and the Cordillera.

For six years from 1996 to 2002, it was also cited by the Land Bank of the Philippines as the most outstanding participating financial institution of the countryside loan fund.

In 1976, Rang-y Bank opened its first extension office at the site of the old market in this city, a walking distance away from its main office.

### Computerization

In October of the same year, the bank, with then fresh graduates 23-year-old Ives taking over as president and manager, began computerizing its operations, the first rural bank in Northern Luzon to do so.



ONE of the rural financial institution's branches

In 1982, a year after it inaugurated its new offices at the newly-built Nisce-Querol building on Gov. Luna Street, another branch was opened in Tubao town.

In the 1990s, four more Rang-y Bank branches were opened in Baguio (1992); Dagupan (1995); Candonga (1997), and Laoag (1998).

In the 2000s, three more branches were put up in Agoo (2000); Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur (2003), and Vigan (2004). In July 2004, it acquired the Burgos Rural Bank of Burgos, Ilocos Sur.

This year, Rang-y Bank, its application already approved by the Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas, is set to put up branches in Bacnotan, Balaoan and Naguilan towns, all in La Union, and in La Trinidad, Benguet.

No other rural bank in the Ilocos region and the Cordillera could match the achievement of Rang-y Bank.

"And we have also proven that lending to farmers, fisher folk, the small and medium micro-entrepreneurs can be a viable enterprise," Eufrosina Nisce said in a message she gave during the bank's 50th anniversary celebrations last January.

With its resources totaling P647 million as of 2005, Rang-y remains the leading rural bank in

the Ilocos region and Cordillera based on data of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

Since 1956, it has granted loans amounting to P7 billion to more than 100,000 borrowers in the Ilocos provinces, Pangasinan and the Cordillera. Most of these loans were granted to agriculture and SMEs.

"Our success is not measured in terms of the assets we have amassed or the profits we have gained but by how far our depositors and borrowers have grown with us," said Nisce, echoing the pro-active philosophy and meaning of the Ilocano word rang-y.

Among those whom the Rang-y Bank lent to include a Tondo boy who now owns a beach resort and restaurant; a bus conductor who acquired a fleet of buses; a poverty-stricken stow-away (female) who is one of the biggest dealers of seasonal fruits, frozen products and eggs in San Fernando.

"All these enterprises are in the communities we serve, creating jobs therein, and so we play a vital role in the local economy, keeping its lifeblood flowing and empowering farmers, the fisher folk and micro-entrepreneurs with their successful ventures," says Nisce.

## Mag agri tayo: Toward sustainable agriculture

THE TITLE OF THIS PIECE IS ALSO THE title of a book that we are now developing to call attention to the close relationship between agriculture and environment.

We have not paid enough attention to that relationship, perhaps because we have been preoccupied with industrial pollution, which has, indeed, become a threat to life in some areas. But we ignore or do little to stop the rampant burning of rice straws in the countryside, which also has an adverse impact on public health and climate change.

About 70 percent of our people depend on agriculture for livelihood and sustenance and farming is the dominant activity in our country. The good news is that recent reports show significant increase in the growth of the agriculture sector's economic output, from 0.54 percent in the first quarter last year to 3.93 percent in the first quarter this year.

That emphasizes the importance of pursuing agricultural development. But we should never do so at the expense of the environment.

Agriculture and environment have profound influence on each other.

"The dream to boost farm productivity and the desire for sufficient food to address the needs of a growing population spur the farmer to exploit his land and other resources. But the search for progress and development disrupts the ways of nature."

That quote is from Philip Daffon, president of FARM Foundation Inc. and director, producer and host of the TV Program, Mag-Agri Tayo In NBN 4, and my co-author of this book in progress.

Indeed, farming provides food and habitat for various species, but it can also adversely impact on the environment through improper agricultural practices and land use.

We now need to ensure that our agriculture sector is environment friendly and sustainable. The latter means integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions in agricultural development.

It also means addressing national and global issues of food security, poverty alleviation, rural development, climate change, water management, biodiversity conservation, and others, with due respect to the laws of nature.

Of the many issues affecting the agricultural ecosystem, biodiversity loss is, perhaps, the most serious threat because it affects all the other issues and it can be irreversible.

This was the subject of the Philippine Biodiversity Country Study that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the United Nations Environment Programme jointly conducted about 10 years ago. The study included an assess-

### MAPPING THE FUTURE

Corazon PB. Claudio

ment of the diversity of the agricultural ecosystem and the development of recommended conservation and sustainable use strategies that require public-private partnership.

It is time to revisit the results of that study and understand what actions have been taken by both the government and private sector on the recommended strategies.

One of the strategies was to conduct an information, education and communication campaign to encourage the participation of farmers and the general public in conserving our agricultural biodiversity, especially our "indigenous domesticated exotic species."

If most of our readers still do not know what that phrase in quotes means, then we have not gone far in the IEC campaign. The species include domestic animal population composed of carabaos, cattle, horses, hogs, goats and other domesticated species, with carabaos significantly decreasing in population from 10 years ago. How far we have addressed that decreasing trend is interesting to know.

What we now know is that our country remains one of the top 17 countries in terms of biodiversity. But we ranked 125th among 146 countries rated by the 2005 Yale Environmental Sustainability Index, indicating our poor use of our natural resources, including agricultural resources.

Our book will identify and dissect policies that support and promote sustainable agriculture. We shall also discuss some of the major issues that hinder the advancement of sustainable agriculture in the country. We shall present case studies on good farming and related agricultural practices resulting from or influenced by the policies.

We hope to produce a book that will send a clear message—that, from now on, protection of the environment must be a policy and operational concern in the agriculture sector and a critical factor to be considered in agricultural technology and knowledge generation and transfer.

(Dr. Claudio, an engineer-economist and president of EARTH Institute Asia Inc., chairs the MAP Environment and Urban Development Committee. Feedback to mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

## Guitarist hits the right note with music chain

By Senen Bravo

EVERY TIME JINGS DE Guzman plays out of tune, he would do lots of fine-tuning until he gets his music right—at the basement.

The then 12-year-old would beat the heat and mosquitoes underneath the house, in the name of honing his craft and passion for the guitar.

He eventually carried his lifelong dedication to music to Audiophile, a business that he set up in 1980 which has grown to become one of the country's leading retail chains specializing in audio products.

On display at Audiophile's seven branches is a P200,000 Ibanez guitar, along with other musical and audio parts and accessories.

The Far Eastern University graduate says that in his youth, he would religiously listen to the music of the Ventures. His parents taught him the basics of several instruments starting with keyboards.

He would then perform with a couple of bands and earn P250.

"That was big bucks at the time. From 8:30 in the evening till midnight we would rock the house at Rufino Building in Makati," says the 62-year-old De Guzman.

He also singled out the type of crowd and music at the time.

"Compared with the crowd you see in today's concerts, ours was a lot rarer. Plus the fact that we dished out melodic tunes worth their time and money," says De Guzman.

Several gigs later, he wound up at the Executive Band of Sen. Raul Manglapus and former First Lady Ming Ramos, playing bass. A common friend introduced him to the late senator.

"I would find myself touring with Raul Manglapus in the United States and Europe, getting to know more about the music scene in these parts of



JINGS de Guzman (left) passed on the baton to sons Jijo (middle) and Gary at Audiophile's main warehouse on UN Avenue.

the world and honing my own skills," says De Guzman.

In 1975, he shelled out P5,000 from his personal savings to put up Thrift Shop in Paco, Manila, retailing Pioneer, Kenwood, Sansui and JBL products.

"Friends at one point discouraged me because P5,000 could buy me a better guitar," says De Guzman.

He would endure traveling from Clark to Manila to deliver his wares at the 40-square-meter lot shop.

Repair and trade-in of stereos would be added to Thrift Shop's services. He would soon consign some of the products to friends.

"Turntables were beginning to boom in the late '70s to '80s and we wanted to cash in on that demand," says De Guzman.

Thrift Shop would serve as haven for audiophiles who were looking for stereo accessories, such as turntable needles and vinyl long playing albums.

His friend, Ben Yehung, suggested that they directly approach big suppliers, like Audio Technica and Luxman, to widen their reach and avoid middlemen.

Thus Audiophile was born in 1980, catering to broadcast

(media outlets), cinema (theaters) and fix installation (clubs, bars, restaurants, disco bars) markets with speakers, equalizers, amplifiers, microphones, guitars, drum sets and percussion instruments.

In five years, Audiophile had carved a niche in these markets, prompting De Guzman to put up branches in Ali Mall and Arrium Makati.

"Our marketing strategy has been to nurture our 50 dealers nationwide who advertise our products to a growing number of customers," says De Guzman.

He said that piracy has driven some recording artists to live shows, with Audiophile supplying the best microphones, musical instruments and audio equipment accessories.

Among Audiophile's customers are performers and bands, like Land Misalucha, Nina, Barbie, Wolfgang, Razorback and Side A, which endorsed its microphone.

With a steady market, De Guzman set his children to learn the business first hand.

After graduation in 1993, his son Jijo, now Audiophile's division manager, started off at one warehouse on UN Avenue, doing manual labor

Jijo even took up a master's in entrepreneurship at Asian Institute of Management to cope with his growing responsibilities.

Problems with guitars, drums and other instruments are handled by Audiophile's Marikina service center.

Audiophile also hired foreign acts to complement its marketing strategy, hosting the guitar clinic of Mr. Big guitarist Paul Gilbert who introduced Ibanez guitar to Filipinos in 2001.

Last year also saw the performance of another American guitarist Jennifer Batten (session artist for Sting, Britney Spears and Jeff Beck), who wowed the crowd with Digitech's GNX 3000 and Jamman Looper features.

De Guzman requires would-be Audiophile dealers to have P500,000 worth of order, a warehouse and a technical staff before they can set up shop.

After years of dealer-based approach, Audiophile plans to line up more branches within the year at SM North, Sta. Rosa and Star Mall.

"Our 60 dealers have already exposed our products nationwide. The secret of retail now is in the mall," says Jijo.



## Shares buy back

FOR MOST COMPANIES, ADDITIONAL stockholders mean more money.

But as the number of part owners of a business increases, so does the paper work needed to handle the equity contributions.

The law requires all stockholders to be notified of important developments in the company. Their consent has to be sought before certain decisions can be made by management.

A stockholder who owns, for example, 10 shares, has the same voting and notice rights as another who owns 51 percent of the company.

If the holders of small number of shares are numerous and live far from the company's principal office, the task of complying with the notice requirement can be tedious and expensive.

To cut down on administrative costs, some companies offer to buy back the holdings of small stockholders, with a premium sometimes tacked on to make it attractive.

It's up to the stockholder concerned to decide whether to accept the buyout or hold on to his shares to enjoy the benefits of its dividends, if any.

### Cost management

The right of a company to buy back small stockholdings was the subject of a recent query to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The company, which is listed in the stock exchange, plans to write directly to its stockholders and offer to buy back the shares that are below board lot (999 shares and below) for purposes of efficiency and cost management.

The company checked with the SEC to find out if its plan is covered by the mandatory tender offer rule of the Securities Regulation Code.

Essentially, the rule states that "any person or group of persons acting in concert, who intends to acquire 35 percent or more of equity shares in a public company" should disclose that intention and offer to buy the shares of holders of that class of shares to the extent of the planned acquisition.

The rule aims to level the playing field among the stockholders when a third party wants to buy a big chunk of a company's stocks.

### Market price

The opportunity to sell should be made available to all similarly situated stockholders and not only to select stockholders who may be privy to the plans of or have been approached by the buyer for that purpose.

The SEC said the subject scheme is not cov-

## Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

ered by the tender offer rule.

The transaction is governed by the "tender offer by the issuer/buy back" rules which allow a company to reacquire a specific class of shares for any of the following purposes:

"To implement a stock option or stock purchase plan;

"To meet short-term obligations which can be settled by the re-issuance of the repurchased shares;

"To pay dissenting or withdrawing stockholders who are entitled to the payment of their shares under the Corporation Code; and

"Such other legitimate corporate purposes. The SEC declared the objective behind the proposed action, which uses "below board lot" as the benchmark in determining who should be covered by the buy back, can be considered a legitimate corporate purpose.

The agency, however, emphasized that the offer should be at the market price of the shares during the buy back period. This requirement was laid down to protect the interests of the affected stockholders.

Since the shares are publicly traded, the data on the market price can be easily obtained from the stock exchange.

### Retained earnings

As in all instances when the law allows the redemption, repurchase or buy back of shares, the SEC stated that the company should have sufficient unrestricted retained earnings in its coffers to finance that action. Unrestricted retained earnings refer to the "excess of the assets of the corporation over its liabilities including the amount of the legal capital."

The requirement on the kind or source of funds that can be used to redeem or buy back shares is aimed at protecting the company's creditors.

Since the corporation's assets constitute a "trust fund" to which creditors look up to for the payment of their advances, expenses that are not in the ordinary course of business (like a shares buy back) should be funded from sources other than the company's legal capital.

The records on file with the SEC showed the company that made the query had more than enough money in its treasury to effect the buy back without putting its creditors at risk. (For feedback, write to [rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph))



## Great outdoors. Exciting indoors.

The new B-Class.

A new dimension in practical luxury.



► Why hasn't anyone ever thought of it? A car that combines the characteristics of various vehicle concepts, and reinvents them all in

a completely new idea: the Compact Sports Tourer.

► At only 4.27m in length, the B-Class boasts generous space that's enough for 3 passengers comfortably seated in the back. Its adjustable seating means adjustable storage capacity for anything from mountain bikes and golf bags, to crates of food and supplies and

anything in between.

► The new B-Class Compact Sports Tourer. A new dimension in practical luxury.



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz Global City, 32nd St., cor. West Drive, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig 1634, Metro Manila TEL: (632) 815 7777 FAX: (632) 815 9153  
Mercedes-Benz GreenHills, 1908 EDSA GreenHills, San Juan 1502, Metro Manila  
TEL: (632) 723 3006 MOBILE: (0917) 858 7194 FAX: (632) 726 7741 EMAIL: [mercedesbenz@mb.com.ph](mailto:mercedesbenz@mb.com.ph) WEBSITE: [www.mercedes-benz.com.ph](http://www.mercedes-benz.com.ph)

96

Halo isandaang taong pagtugon sa bawat kasunduan, may krisis, karamihan sa mga Pilipino ang nagmamalasakit sa kanilang mga anak, siguradong mayroon kang banhin. Yang tinatamad sa mga taong, siguradong malapad namin ang iyong mga mata, siguradong mayroon kang banhin. Yan ang pagmamahal sa Insular Life - ang pinakamalaking Filipino life insurance company. May pinagmamahal, may pagtutugonhan.



# BUSINESSMonday

## Hitting the wall but not giving up

Pre-need exec relies on mental strength to carry him and his firm forward



LARRY OCAMPO takes part in the Subic International Triathlon

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ENDURANCE ATHLETES REFER to it as "the wall."

It is that part of the long, arduous race where the athlete, usually a runner, runs out of strength, and the feeling is comparable to hitting a brick wall—you just cannot take another step.

With muscles aching and sweat pouring, some athletes do give up and fall by the wayside.

But there are those who ignore what their body is begging them to do and concentrate on putting one foot in front of the other until the second wind comes along and takes them to the end of their journey.

PET Plans Inc. president Lorenzo T. Ocampo knows what it's like to come up against "the wall," being a triathlete—he runs, cycles and swims.

"At that point, your mind takes over because your body has already reached its physical limitations," Ocampo tells INQUIRER, "I just tell myself to keep on moving and go on one little step at a time."

Ocampo says an athlete is lucky

if he comes up against the wall just once in a long race and the second wind sweeps in quickly.

Sometimes, "the wall" comes up more than once, and the much-awaited second wind, or that surge of new strength, never comes.

But no matter how many times Ocampo has faced "the wall," he is proud to say that he has almost always managed to reach the finish line, even if it means swimming for 3.8 kilometers, cycling for another 180 and then running the last 42 kilometers.

"I did join an adventure race many years ago and my partner and I could not climb the rock wall, no matter how we tried as we had never taken climbing lessons," he says.

"We tried until our arms turned to Jello but failed. We've since learned how to climb and joined a few more races. Rock walls are no longer an issue," he adds.

He will need that dogged determination as he faces another type of "wall" in his job as president of a pre-need company.

With the industry beset by sharp drops in sales because of the financial disasters that hit two of the biggest players in the industry, he is hard pressed to

find ways to keep the company moving forward.

It's probably safe to bet on Ocampo succeeding at his task as he has never run away from a challenge.

One of the first came his way in 1988 when he was asked to help push sales of the Impulse Spray of Unilever, then named Philippine Refining Corp.

As brand assistant, the Georgetown University graduate had to go around sari-sari stores and other retail outlets to encourage them to carry his product.

He says the work gave him the opportunity to better know the kind of people that his maternal grandfather, the revered Sen. Lorenzo Tañada, served all his life.

He explains that while he and the rest of the Tañada clan were always involved during elections or in demonstrations, he did not really get the chance to know the "mass" well.

"I realized that they really knew their stuff. They were very competent at what they do," Ocampo says.

That intimate knowledge of what the lower to middle-income markets want from Unilever served Ocampo well in the five

years that he stayed with Unilever.

From Impulse, he moved on to handle Rexona and Superwheel, which was the biggest brand in Unilever's arsenal at that time, as brand manager.

"I was really mentored there. They set very high standards and it was very tough," Ocampo says. "Many of my ideas were slapped down but I also managed to put in winners."

He was on his way to bigger things at Unilever, but he resigned in 1992 and asked his father, the late Adrian V. Ocampo, if he could join him at PET Plans, which the elder Ocampo set up in 1988 with partners, including Tanada.

"I asked him if I could join because the business was growing quite quickly and I wanted to help," Ocampo says.

The two Ocampos steered the company through highs and lows and it gave the younger Ocampo the opportunity to see his father in a different light.

"He has always been involved in so many things, like manufacturing, building and selling and insurance, and through it all he looked like he was having fun," he says.

It was not all fun, he realized, as there are definite downsides to a son working for his father.

"Sometimes, you mix up the relationship of father and son with employee and superior and he can be quite intense," he says.

Then there is also the perception that he only got his job because he is the son of the owner, but he has learned early on to go beyond it and just concentrate on his work.

He is also his own man, not a shadow of his late father, of whom he is proud.

"Our personalities are very different. He is very good at relating with people. He can immediately connect with them," he says, "I am more deliberate and I can not easily put on the charm."

Their personalities may be different, but they complement and the partnership worked well until late last year when the elder Ocampo passed away.

Ocampo had to take over all of the reins of PET Plans and also look at the operation of other companies—Petnet, involved in the remittance business; and AV Ocampo and Associates, an insurance brokerage firm.

Since then he has been taking difficult but necessary steps to

ensure the survival of the pre-need firm. Branches were cut from as much as 130 to just 41, 30 percent of the work force was let go and costs cut—all because the pre-need industry is just 40 percent of what it was three years ago.

Sales have been hard to come by because potential customers were spooked by the inability of the country's top pre-need firms to pay their obligations to plan holders.

Ocampo says PET Plans is not about to renege on its obligations to its plan holders saying it has a large enough trust fund to cover its financial obligations.

He, however, says with business conditions as they are, it will be very difficult for the industry itself to survive. The industry, however, is still looking at the Securities and Exchange Commission for some leeway to allow them to continue and remain profitable.

Ocampo, thus, comes face to face with another "wall," this time in business. And like on the track, he relies on his mental strength to carry him and his company forward.

He never gave up before, and he's not about to start now.



LARRY and Adrian Ocampo

Your best solution to customer service is also the simplest one.  
Up to 21 Million SMART & Talk n' Text subscribers will love it!

The number of your mobile customers increases every day. It makes sense to give your customers a 1-800 number they can call anytime, anywhere they are in the Philippines. Now that PLDT D800 gives your customers the option to call via landline or mobile phone, you'll be more available to provide them with the top-quality service they deserve and look for. PLDT D800, it's your company's widest, truest customer hotline.

Starting May 22, 2006 the first 100 customers to subscribe to PLDT D800 will get a FREE D800 Vanity Number\* and waived Subscription Fee. Make your business truly your own. \*Subject to availability



For inquiries: W. [www.pldt.com.ph](http://www.pldt.com.ph) E. [bfzsol@pldt.com.ph](mailto:bfzsol@pldt.com.ph) T. (632) 177 / 688-2700 / 1-800-100-812501 F. (632) 844-6654 / 1-800-888-0009





## WORRY-FREE PRINTER MAINTENANCE

For your printer's smooth operation and optimum performance, avoid ink, water and corrosive inks that can damage your printer's print head. Choose the nearest **4650** **Smart & genuine** **EPSON** ink.

# LIFESTYLE

**Subsection Editor Lito B. Zulueta**

**Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso**

Send feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email [us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph)

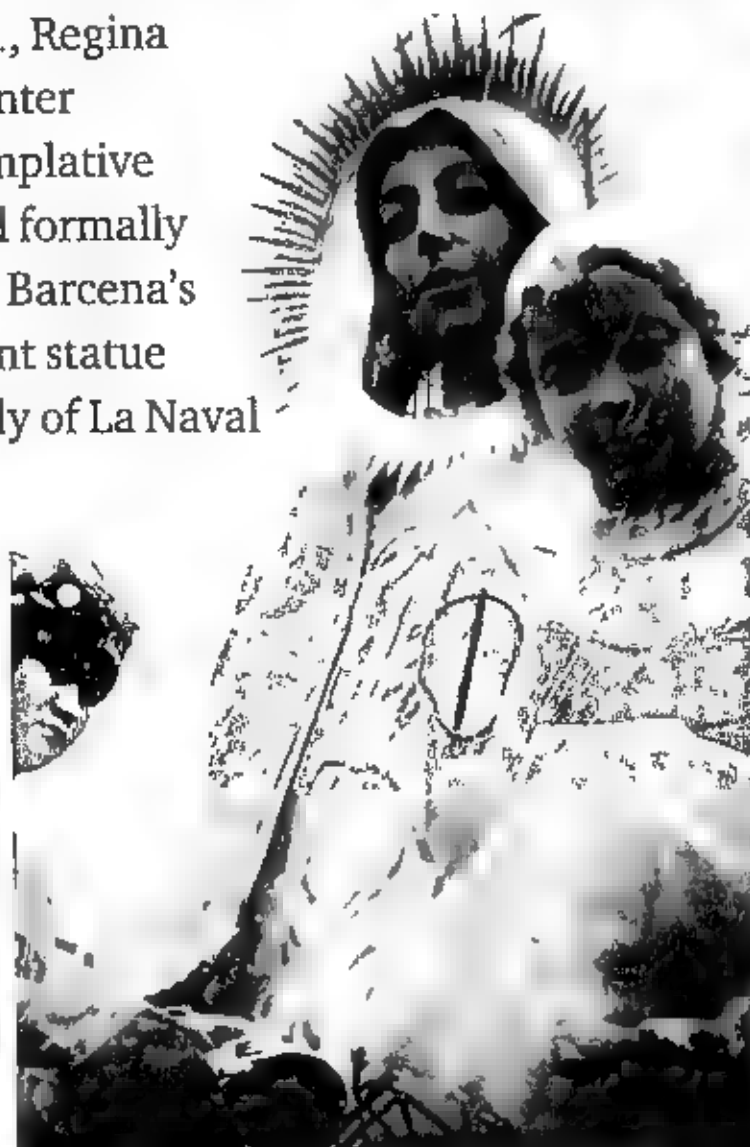
The collage features three distinct images. At the top left is a newspaper clipping with the headline "The things you only see in the movies" and a sub-headline "DINKY". Below this is a large, stylized graphic of a "P-28" aircraft. To the right of the aircraft is a circular logo for "ICED COFFEE" with a central illustration of a person's face.

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

# 30-foot Marian statue rises in QC

**A VIEW** from the deck atop the Regina Rosarli Center for Contemplative Prayer shows the artist ensconced in the Lady's halo.

On May 31, Regina Rosarii Center for Contemplative Prayer will formally unveil Joe Barcena's magnificent statue of Our Lady of La Naval.



**SCULPTOR** Barcena peers from the Marian sculpture with his work tools

**By Gino Dormiendo**  
Contributor

**I**N WHAT COULD BE the most fitting way to close the Marian month of May, the Regina Rosarii Center for Contemplative Prayer, run by the Dominican Sisters of Regina Rosarii (OP Regina), with the support of the Regina Rosarii Contemplative Association, will formally unveil José "Joe" Barcena's magnificent statue of Our Lady of La Naval May 31.

The 30-foot image is the biggest yet dedicated to the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, who was believed to have aided the vastly outnumbered Spanish-Filipino fleet in the historic naval battles in the 17th century against the superior Dutch invaders. The victory of the defenders was canonized as a miracle, hence the true Our Lady of La Naval.

The statue stands in a private property on Scout Fernandez, Bgy. Laging Handa, a stone's throw from bustling Tomas Morato Avenue in Quezon City.

It is the piece de résistance of the Davao-based sculptor who has created a number of Marian shrines in Naga City; Taytay, Rizal; Mati in Davao Oriental; Tagum in Davao de. Norte; Tagaytay and Davao City.

A Fine Arts, major in Painting, alumnus of the University of Santo Tomas, the 31-year-old Barcelona has worked in close partnership with Sr. Eppie Brazil, founder of the Dominican Sisters of ~~Regina Rosari~~ the Regina Rosari Shrine in Tagum and Tagaytay.

Says Barcena: "We have envisioned a sanctuary of contemplative silence in the heart of a business district, an eloquent reminder that God is

indeed present and truly alive in the midst of all the noise pollution that is now one of the most serious maladies of our time."

Born in Naga City, Barcelona comes from a family deeply rooted in religion. As a child, he was exposed to his grandmother's, as well as the town's, fealty to Our Lady of Peñafrancia, whose gigantic processions fired up his young imagination. His great grandfather and grandfather, both named Federico, were famous local sculptors.

In college, he then budding sculptor cast in fiberglass the bust of Pope John Paul II. Another piece on the Pope, which won first prize in a contest using lahar material, became part of a diorama on the Pope's life and is now enshrined in the Vatican.

A Marian devotee himself, Barcena worked feverishly on the statue, erecting it atop a five-story house. His medium of choice was fibreglass; he draped her figure and reinforced it with steel and iron to withstand stormy weather. At the foot of the Lady, a chorus of cherubim floats amid a garland of drifting clouds, and

One unique feature of the statue is that it stands on a fully rotating pedestal, capable of turning 360 degrees, thanks to an electrical mechanism the sculptor has devised. The icon's towering presence in the surrounding area is visible to everyone, including the high-rise structures of the two major TV networks

(The Tagaytay Marian Shrine Borcena built earlier is a testament to his landscape savvy, not to mention his unique gifts to bring out the best features of an arborea setting.)

The Dominican prayer center's interior altar, located by the building entrance, has another oeuvre of the artist: a modernist, impressively minimalist *retablo*, featuring serenely hued fiber-glass etching generated by lighting fixtures conducive to contemplation and meditation. Sprawled

around are oversized throw pillows for sitting and meditation.

Envisioned to become the permanent home of Our Lady in the city, the Regina Rosari Center for Contemplative Prayer is a sacred space, a sanctuary of silence, an oasis of hope where peace and harmony, crowned by the magnificence of God's creation, shall reign.

As St. Dominic himself said: "Our preaching is the sharing of our contemplative insights, the fruits of our contemplation, to the poor and broken."

# WHAT'S ON



Jam with this cool band as they promote their latest album under Redrum Productions and Warner Music.

## Join The Clubs



## NOW OPEN!

**DEMO**strations  
**SM** MALL OF ASIA  
 South Bldg. 2nd Floor

**PARANAQUE CONDOMINIUM**  
 STA ANA DRIVE, SUN VALLEY, PARANAQUE CITY  
 1BR (30 sqm.) Php 260K • 24/7 WATER SUPPLY  
 2BR (42 sqm.) Php 1.06M • NEAR MAKATI CBD  
**894-5568**  
 FOR AS LOW AS **PHP 5,500/MO.**  
 PAG-IBIG, BANK OR IN HOUSE



**Fast decision. 10-year fixed.  
Rock-bottom rates.  
We bring your new home closer.**

1-year	10.00%	P 9,651
2-year	10.50%	P9,984
3-year	11.00%	P10,322
5-year	11.25%	P10,493
10-year	11.50%	P10,665

\* Rates apply only for new term loan releases and purpose is acquisition, construction or refinancing. Rates are subject to change without prior notice.

\*\* For every loan amount of P1 000,000 for 20 years.

Cal. 845-8772 or text PSDANK@HOME AD *<your name>* *<your landline nos.>* *<your email address>* then send to 391 772 for Smart or 0917 890 2327







"A BEAUTIFUL Collapse," by Espiritu



"WAKING up from a Car Crash," by Espiritu



"SATURDAY Evening... Down the Drain Again," by Espiritu

## Between wet dreams and waking hours



"DANCING Towards Oblivion with Tragedy on Our Hands," by Crist Espiritu

By Constantino C. Tejero

**A** THICK BREW OF POP ART AND Surrealism usually appears in the works of upcoming young artists. There's something about the unleashed imagination, a wildness in color and form, akin to rebellion, that always appeals to the young.

That interesting mix is seen in Janet Balbarona and Crist Espiritu's joint exhibit "Volatile Fix," 19 pieces in oil on canvas, until May 30 in Blue Room Art Gallery, 1534 Lacuña St., Bangkal, Makati City.

This is edgy art we expect from the young. Both Fine Arts graduates from University of Santo Tomas, Balbarona has seven pieces in the show while Espiritu has 12.

If the former's art appears inspired by fashion-magazine illustration, the latter's resembles editorial cartoon. Both works can't be far from Poster Art.

Balbarona depicts young women solo or duo posing as if in a fashion shoot à la Avedon, particularly in "Bittersweet Sixteen" and "Dreaming in Stripes." She uses flat, clear, commercial colors à la Wesselmann or Rosenquist.

Sometimes the imagery verges on soft porn, as in "Doll House," "Ricochet," "Thieves of the Heart." But this is deceptive, because Balbarona's posing subjects, looking directly at the viewer as if on a dare or challenge, are actually near descendants of the women of Sigmar Polke and Egon Schiele.

Watch out. They're not victims of sexual exploitation or commercialism, but



"DOLL House," by Janet Balbarona

could be the victimizers themselves—some budding femme fatales.

While Balbarona's draftsmanship aspires to a cool realism, Espiritu's turns to sheer caricature. Against planes of earth colors, slate-green, gray, amber, ochre, red, gold, the artist unleashes his uncon-

scious by floating or drifting off figures that are more cartoonish than Jif-like.

His art is obviously influenced by Dali—not the Dali of "The Crucifixion" or "The Last Supper" but the Dali of "Sleep" or "The Persistence of Memory."

His art thrives on dreamlike images

with corresponding titles that sound just as stoned: "The Eerie Waking Hours of an Endorphin Junkie," "Like M. Stipe I Don't Sleep... I Dream," "Dancing Towards Oblivion with Tragedy on Our Hands," "Saturday Evening... Down the Drain Again," "Waking up from a Car Crash," "Subconscious Tripping with George," "A Beautiful Collapse."

His world is populated by demons, ghoulish figures, cows and rabbits, crescent moon, disembodied angel wings, human bodies sprouting hamburgers or French fries for heads—replete with Freudian slips and Jungian motifs.

Says the exhibit note: "The pensive poses of Balbarona's lithe models and the wry slyness of Espiritu's satirical figures are a study in emotional contrasts as well as an intriguing cocktail of visual styles. One is instantly caught up in the middle of the well-posed countenances and sardonic glances of the artists' subjects, which are alternately reminiscent of glossy glamour-magazine photo shoots and lampoon comic caricatures."

"Between them, Balbarona and Espiritu entangle the viewer in tensions that are as unsettling as they are familiar. Caught between wet dreams and eerie waking hours, the heat of the moment builds up to a flashpoint."

By the look of it, "Volatile Fix" must be an exhibit produced by party animals. While Balbarona's art seems like a product of a fashionista, Espiritu's is of a hard drinker.

The former is a tease, the latter a hangover. Just living up to The Factory.



"RICOCHET," by Balbarona



"THE EERIE Waking Hours of an Endorphin Junkie," by Espiritu

## 'Rhapsody' exhibit

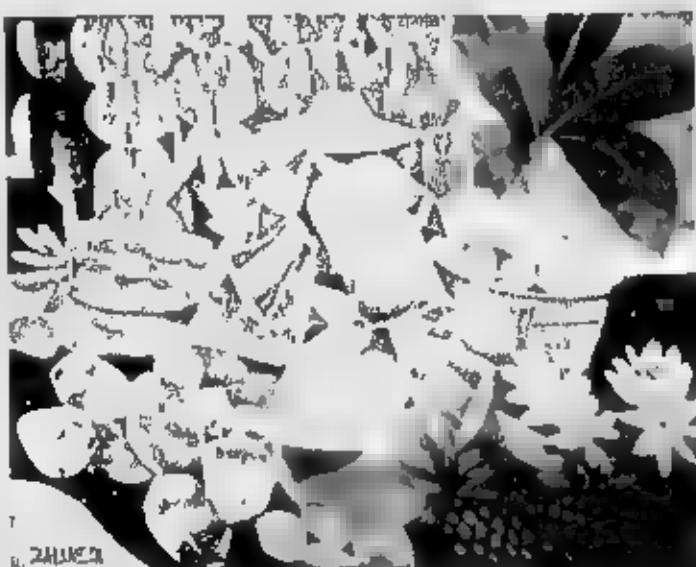
THE SOCIAL SERVICES Committee of the House of Representatives with Choice Expression Gallery presents "Rhapsody 2," an exhibition celebrating life and harvest.

The exhibit features works by various established and emergent artists such as Angel Cacho, Ramon Orina, Caloy Gabuco, Oscar Zalameda, Angelito Antonio, Araceli Dans, Eduardo Castillo, Omi Reyes, Juvenal Sansó, Lydia Velasco, Fred Ramirez, Marcel Antonio, Emmanuel Garibay, Michael Cacho, Roel Obeno, Norman Dreo, Aner Sebastian, Elio Santos and Bin Samonte.

The show will benefit the Philippine Mental Health Association and Rondalla on Wheels. The exhibit runs through June at the South Building lobby of the Batasang Pambansa. Call 8990717 or 8990718.



"CHERUBS," by Caloy Gabuco



"HARVEST," by Oscar Zalameda

## A harmony of art and music

By Joanna Marie Grace Romero  
Contributor

**T**HE OPENING OF "LA Musique IV" enthralled guests as it merged music and the visual arts at the Galerie Joaquin Main in San Juan.

The perceptible balance of the two art forces proved obvious from the beginning. Leading the ribbon-cutting ceremony were artist Juvenal Sansó, who was very recently awarded with the Presidential Medal of Merit, and pianist Raul Sunco, both internationally acclaimed artists.

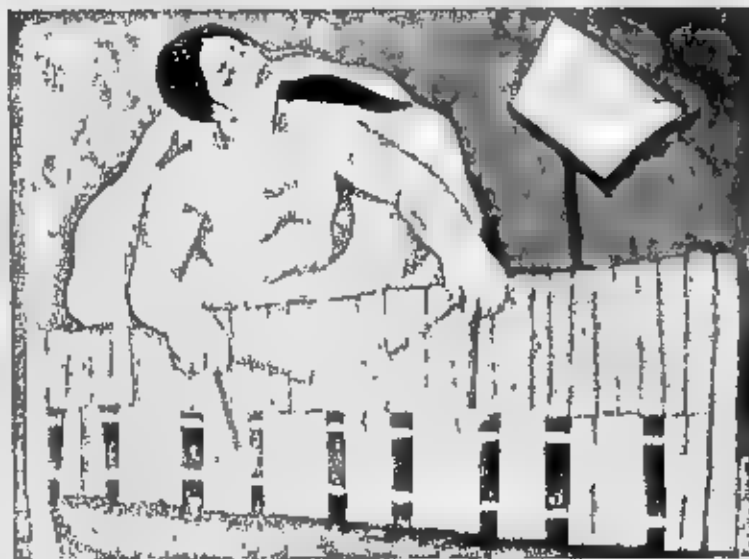
"La Musique IV," opened in connection with National Heritage Month, saw fine renditions of classical pieces by soprano Josephine Gomez and tenor Frankie Asenero.

Timeless compositions by Nicanor Abeardo and Lucio San Pedro were rendered by highly respected musicians such as pianists Dick Zamora and Carlos Peron, violinist John Lesaca, and flutists Sonny Yanco and Lenny de Jesus.

As finale, Sunco played a heartfelt *kundiman* plus a suite of music from the Broadway musical "My Fair Lady" which left the audience clamoring for more.

"La Musique IV" consists of a fine selection of artworks from 22 artists who make unique interpretations of music in various media.

Jerry Morada's surreal oil-on-canvas pieces are stimulating. His 48" x 36" "Musika" starkly avoids the Pilipiniana figures he has come to be known for and instead focuses on musical instruments, chopped to reveal only their up-



"MARIMBA," by Bayani Acala

per bodies and ornamented by the brown scapular, a staple motif of his.

Landscape impressionist Felix Tiglao's "Himig ng Dalaga" and "Alaa" are a diptych showing a woman in her youth playing a violin and an old lady reminiscing about having played the violin during her younger days.

Another interesting piece is dernara Vista's 48" x 36" "Ensemble" painting of three musicians complete with Vista's signature tilted heads, oversized hands and feet. The positioning of the figures in the painting evokes harmony in the music produced by their cello and violins.

Bayani Acala's women portray a sense of quiet repose, rejoicing in their femininity and musicality. The figures are shown in the act of playing music: one figure striking a marimba, another playing the piano, others playing wind instruments.

Escueta's acrylics on canvas such as "Perchance to Dream" are exquisite.

In his portraits of cellists Vincent de Pio, the youngest featured artist, plays around various colors of earth

tone or simple hues of black and white. His works are highly textured.

Highly expressive are the works of National Artist Arturo Luz, whose linear and geometric acrylics on canvas are tasteful and intriguing.

Sansó, Mario Prijal and Lydia Velasco also render their personal interpretations of music: graceful, festive, contemplative. Their works, as always, never cease to allure.



JOHN Lesaca

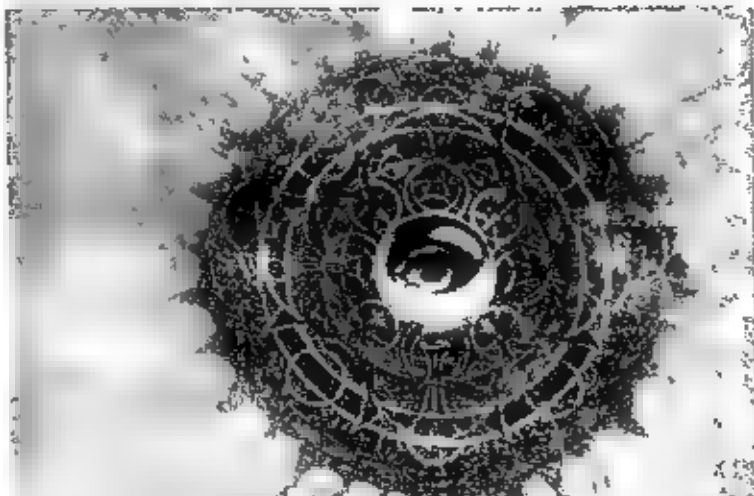


"BLACK and White Cellists," by Vincent de Pio



**VISUAL ARTS****Lofranco at West Gallery**

Joseph Lofranco presents his new works in acrylic and charcoal pencil in "Color Blind Casting," until June 10, at West Gallery, Mary Santos Arcade, West Avenue, Quezon City. Call 4110336/9221 and 3721194

**"DISPELLER of Darkness," by Manoranjan****Group exhibit**

"Kulay Maridina," an art exhibit featuring the Maridina Painters Group, opens on May 30, 4-6 p.m. at Kamayan Restaurant, 207 Edsa, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. Call 7172372 or 0920-9217284.

**Back-to-back exhibits**

On June 1, Karen Ocampo Flores' "Inordinate Designs" and Noel Soler Cuizon's "Apocrypha" will be on view at the Finale Art Gallery and West Gallery, respectively. Both exhibits will run until June 13. Both galleries are on the 4/F Bldg. A, SM Megamall Mandaluyong. Call 6342410 or 6341284

**"REPASO: Cleo's Last Visit," by Noel Soler Cuizon****Sculptors at West**

"Lovingly Menacingly Yours: Objects of Warmth and Terror" features sculptures by Aba Luch Dalena, Maria Taniguchi, Rius San Juan, Leeroy New, Cynthia Alexander, Carmel Lim, and Rey Medina, and collaborative objects by Brulhn, Cez Nufiez and Lyn Endrigano, and by Sarah de Veyra and Redg Plopino. It presents objects that depict persuasions ranging from the sentimental to the divine, the taboo, the decadent and even the shocking. The exhibit will run until June at the West Gallery Sculpture Room, Marisan Building, 48 West Ave. Quezon City. Call 4110336, 3721195 or 4119221

**Ventura at Ateneo**

"Cross Encounters," an exhibit of works by 2005 Ateneo Art Awards winner Ronald Ventura, runs until July 21 at the Ateneo Art Gallery G/F Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, QC. Ventura was the first recipient of the Ateneo Art Gallery Sydney Studio Residency Grant. His works on exhibit include handpainted sculptures, paintings, sketches, toy figures and a riot shield. Call 4266488

**Doctolero at Crucible**

The Crucible Gallery presents a solo exhibit of watercolor by Ferdinand Doctolero on May 30 at 6 p.m. "Luck-WhatCha: Variety of Color Ways" (from the Tagalog street word *akawatsa* which means "to travel or go on journey to different places") will showcase paintings in watercolor and pen and ink on paper. The exhibit will run until June 11 at the Crucible Gallery, 4/F Bldg. A, SM Megamall Mandaluyong. Call 6356061

**Gaechter at Crucible**

"Life with Mother-of-Pearl," a debut exhibit by jeweler/sculptor Paul Gaechter, will open on June 13 at 6 p.m. at the Crucible Gallery. This sculpture collection showcases original designs, styled almost like mosaics, with mother-of-pearls as main material. The exhibit will run until June 25. Call 6356061

**Group exhibit at Pasig Museum**

"Inner Journeys 2" features the recent works of members of the Ananda Marga, an organization which propagates the pursuit of self-realization and selfless service to humanity. Artists include Dada Rameshananda, Avadhuta, Manoranjan, Ramchander, Jyotsna, Paramesh and Arjuna. The exhibit runs until tomorrow at Pasig City Museum. Call 6410211

**Doctor at Power Plant**

Artist Edgar Doctor is featured artist in the exhibit "Tribute to the Arts," opening on June 3 at 6 p.m. at North Court, Power Plant Mall.

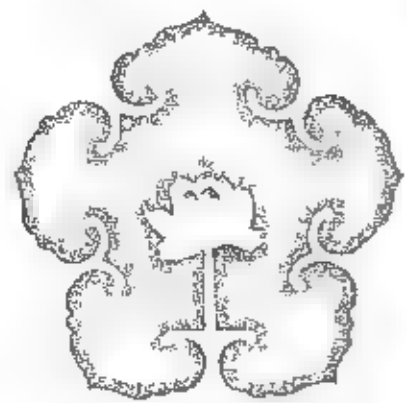
**"BAGUIO at Sunset," by Jemina**

Rockwell Makat.

Meanwhile, Jemina mounts her 11th solo exhibit "Sentimental Journey," until June 2, at the R1 Bridgeway of Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati. The exhibit is the first of a series presented by Power Plant Mall and Yellow Door Gallery. It consists of paintings on canvas depicting Philippine landscapes. Call 0920-9624347

**Photo exhibit**

The Manila Times presents "Popoff: The Faces of the Times," a photo exhibit featuring remarkable personalities such as artists Mauro "Malang" Santos and Ben Cabrera, actress and book author Pilar Pilapil, National Book Store founder Socorro Ramos, PNP general Arturo Lomibao, Ford Supermodel third runner-up, Charo Ronquillo, who have graced the cover of The Sunday Times. Call 5281257 or email belinda\_0331@manilatimes.net

**"BLUE Tip Lotus Orange Cloud," by Emily SyClip-Cheng**

Emily SyClip-Cheng mounts her solo exhibit "Lotus Cloud Tree Mist," until June 8, on the 2/F, MuseumSpace, Ayala Museum. Call 8319990 or 8339815

**EQ Diapers Bonggang Binyagan**

The recently held EQ Bonggang Binyagan baptized hundreds of babies in Metro Manila, Davao, Cebu, Dagupan, and Iloilo. In Metro Manila, there were 132 babies baptized in Fernwood Gardens with Tin-Tin Bersola Babao as one of the symbolic godparents. Moms and babies alike were beaming with joy as they were welcomed into the world of Christianity. The blessed babies also got to take home EQ diaper giveaways. This was truly a memorable moment for loyal user of EQ diapers.



In photos are, clockwise from left: Councilor Antonio Inton of 4th district QC, Eugene Go of EQ Diapers, Christine Bersola Babao & Korina Sanchez as symbolic godparents and the Lucky EQ Mom & baby



One of the hundreds of babies baptized in EQ Bonggang Binyagan



Lucky EQ Mom & Baby, Godparents and Fernwood priests.






**Get a FREE EQ Travel Buddy bag when you buy any EQ Dry Pack!**

**PROMO PERIOD: MARCH 10 - JULY 18, 2006**

**MECHANICS:**

I. Consumers may join by simply collecting packs with intact proof of purchase (POINTS) found on the packs of EQ Dry Baby Diapers. Points per packaging are as follows:

EQ DRY BABY DIAPER with cloth-like cover PACKAGING	LABEL POINTS
Mini Pack (4s)	1/4 point
Travel Pack (NB22s, S20s, M18s, L16s, XL14s)	1 point
Econo Pack (S40s, M36s, L32s, XL28s)	2 points
Jumbo Pack (S80s, M54s, L48s, XL42s)	3 points

II. Submit the required EQ Dry Baby Diaper wrappers together with the following information: sender's name, complete address where you want the premium item/s delivered, baby's name and age, telephone and/or cellphone numbers, signature of parent/guardian, and the desired premium item, written on a piece of paper and enclosed in an envelope. For hard-to-find locations, it would be best that landmark information of the address given be provided for easy reference.

III. Entries can be mailed or hand-carried to:  
**"EQ Dry Travel Buddies"** OR **"EQ Dry Travel Buddies"**  
 JS Untraded Merchandises, Inc. P.O. Box 14280 Pasig City  
 31st Floor, Refinas Corporate Center  
 Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

IV. Choose from any of the following collectible baby bag designs with the required EQ Dry Baby Diaper label points:

Premium Items	Points
Baby Travel Bags: (available designs) A. Pink and blue color combination B. Green and yellow color combination	10 points each
Animal Face Bags: (available designs) C. Cow D. Bear E. Penguin F. Dog	8 points each

**IMPORTANT:**

- Only packs of EQ Dry with cloth-like cover (plain or white) will be accepted
- Entries containing cut-out points will not be honored.

V. The chosen premium item/s shall be delivered by LIBCAP Express to the address submitted by the consumer. In the event that the entry sender is not present during the time of delivery, a member of the sender's household may be asked to sign a proof of delivery and receive the premium item/s in behalf of the entry sender.

VI. Delivery lead times for the premium items are as follows (commencing upon receipt of 'delivery orders' by the courier):

- a. Metro Manila: within 2 to 3 days
- b. Luzon & Visayas: within 2 to 4 days
- c. Mindanao: within 3 to 5 days

VII. Premium items will be delivered until 60 days from end of promo period.

VIII. Consumers may join as many times as they want.

IX. Prizes are non-transferable to cash.

X. Entries thru mail are qualified 15 days after the promo period.

For more information, please visit [www.junited.com](http://www.junited.com)



**Take Good Care of your Heart with Kolestrim® Coconut Fiber Capsule.**

Kolestrim® contains a unique combination of natural coconut fiber and garlic which helps reduce the risk of heart diseases. Don't take your heart for granted, take 2-3 capsules of Kolestrim® daily and make your heart healthier and stronger.




Available in leading drugstores. Only P7.65/capsule (SRP). [www.abs-herbs.com.ph](http://www.abs-herbs.com.ph)





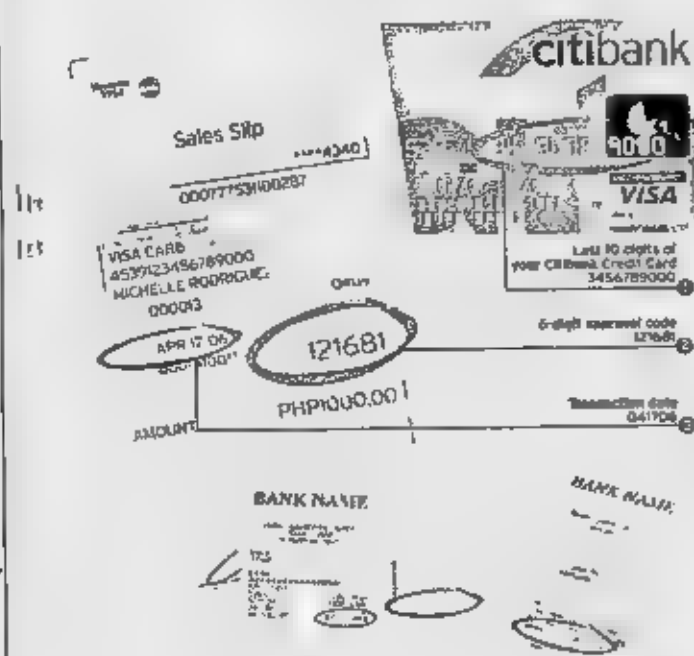
Congratulations to  
Ms. Sally F. Aldaba  
for winning  
**P1,000,000**



You might be the next instant millionaire  
in Citibank's Match & Win promotion!

Every single receipt of at least P1,000  
charged to your Citibank Credit Card  
gives you a chance to win P1,000,000.

To join, text all your entries  
with or without matching numbers.



Text:

CITIBANK LAST 10 DIGITS OF YOUR  
CITIBANK CREDIT CARD NUMBER/  
6-DIGIT APPROVAL CODE/  
TRANSACTION DATE (MMDDYY)

and send to 29768

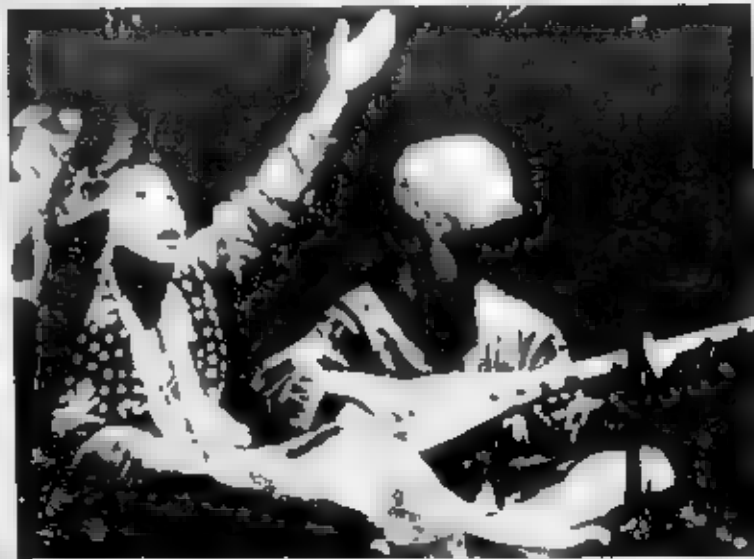
Example:

Citi 3456789000/121681/041706

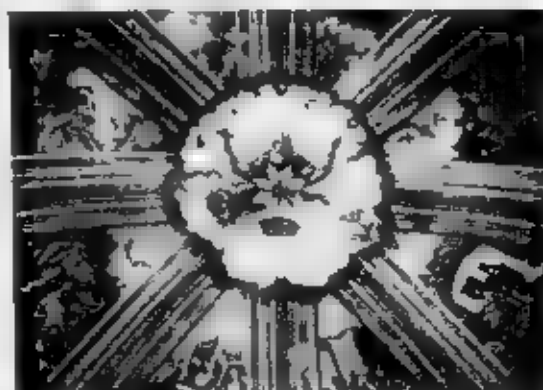
Keep using your Citibank Credit Card from now until  
July 31, 2006 for more chances to be a millionaire!  
Call 995-9999 or visit [www.citibank.com.ph](http://www.citibank.com.ph) for details.



JOIN the Iloilo Heritage Walking Tour on May 30-31 when private  
homes like the Javelana-Lopez ancestral home open their doors.



TRADITIONAL musicians perform for Heritage Month.



church ceiling

## Heritage Month closes in Iloilo

HERITAGE IS ON THE forefront for the entire month of May each year when the National Heritage Month presents a variety of expressions that spring from our multifaceted Philippine culture.

The opening event May 1 was a concert by pianist Cecile Lacad at the majestic San Agustin Church in Paoy (Ilocos Norte), an outstanding Philippine property inscribed in the Unesco World Heritage List because of its uniqueness and universal value.

### PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon



The value of Heritage Month is that it brings out the continuum that is at the root of Philippine culture.

Religious rituals were not conducted in silence. Chanting, sermons, music and dance are powerful methods of prayer as well.

The cavernous structure acoustically enhances the music, so the concert at San Agustin in Paoy brought back a forgotten dimension—that churches are traditionally associated with great music such as Bach's and Mozart's sacred music, and especially our own Missa Bacayana composed in Bacayon Church (Bohol) and religious music composed by Adonay.

Heritage month organized visits and walking tours, convincing owners to open their heritage homes to visitors. Lakbay Bulacan walked people through state-of-the-art homes in the province, served the delicacies and heirloom recipes normally prepared in those homes, and entertained guests with dances in heritage living rooms in the same manner that a host of a century ago would have done.

Heritage linkages are what Heritage Month achieves to revive. It shows that no facet of heritage stands alone, that architecture, art, music, drama, dance, costumes, cuisine, and traditional craft coexist, and that together, rather than singly, they tell the Philippine story much better.

Aside from food festivals, there have also been food essay-writing competitions. Photo, textile and art exhibits have also been showing in cities nationwide. A series of stamps commemorated the necklace of Spanish colonial lighthouses still standing in the farthest reaches of the Philippine

archipelago. A book and photo exhibit of lighthouses were also launched.

Traditional and modern fabrics, hand-loomed by time-honored tribal and lowland weavers from various parts of the country, were demonstrated and shown, some turned into stunning contemporary fashion.

In Bacolod, Silay and Bago cities in Negros Occidental, exhibits featured the contents of old baul (trunks) and aparador (armoires) of ancestral homes—delicate sayas, precious jewelry, religious objects, books, an intimate look into the *haciendero* lifestyle from a century ago.

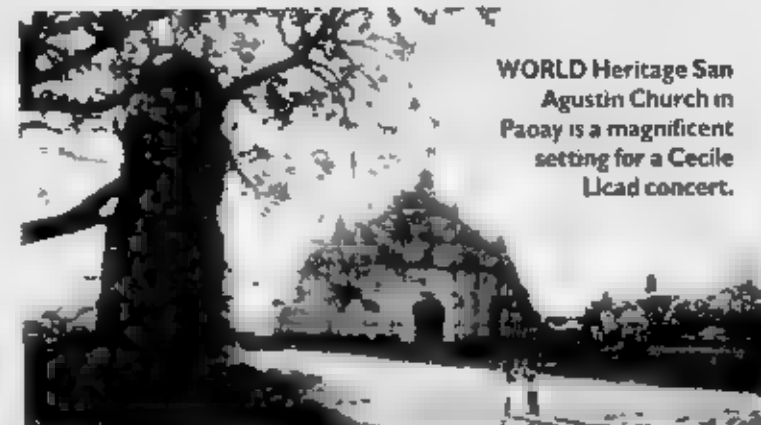
Heritage month is conceived as a month-long festival highlighting cultural heritage sites by using them as venues for cultural activities. Various facets of Philippine culture such as *tiangges*, music and dance performances, visual arts, exhibits, culinary events, art and design retrospectives, walking tours, and much more are offered.

The activities are an enjoyable way to advocate for heritage, focusing attention on endangered heritage, re-introducing forgotten heritage, and bringing either outstanding heritage examples or successful conservation efforts all over the country to public attention.

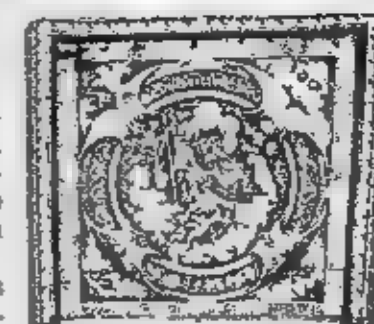
An extraordinary treasure not really known to the public is the centuries-old ceiling painting by artist Raymundo Francia at Loboc Church in Bohol. The luminosity of the colors result from secret paint mixtures by the artist, which attest to the Filipino's talent.

The surprising quality of the ceiling creates awareness for the need for proper conservation methods to protect our heritage.

MAJAYJAY Church, one of the oldest and the tallest in the country



WORLD Heritage San Agustin Church in Paoy is a magnificent setting for a Cecile Lacad concert.



DETAIL of a Tagbilaran church ceiling

Although much Philippine heritage is endangered, all is not lost. Unknown to many, heritage advocacy and conservation programs are often more successful outside of Manila. The work of the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation in documenting and preserving the coastal towns in southern Cebu is an outstanding example.

The success of Iloilo in heritage advocacy is the result of activities by a group of committed residents who are working harmoniously with Mayor Jerry Treñas. Iloilo is an example that the rest of the country can emulate.

In a fitting tribute to Philippine heritage, Iloilo opens its doors to heritage lovers in events to cap Heritage Month.

On May 30, Maasin City's Tul-

tugan bamboo ensemble and a *rondalla* will welcome participants to a grand walking tour of Iloilo mansions—the Javelana-Lopez, Jalandoni-Lopez Vito, Hormillosa-Locsin heritage homes, and the Magdalena Jalandoni Museum.

In the evening, the Ilonggo *sarsuela* "Ang Gugma ni Dansoy tag Rosing" will be performed.

On May 31, the walking tour continues to Molo Church and Convent, the Mejica Museum, Iloilo Sinamay House, and the heritage bakery Panaderia de Molo.

A Flores de Mayo caps the afternoon, followed by troubadours singing sacred music from the Colegio de San Agustin Archives during Mass at the San José Church.

In the evening, "Halad," a tribute to the Blessed Virgin, will feature a traditional verse, *pagdayaw* (eulogy), together with songs and dances that burst into a fireworks display to conclude the 2006 National Heritage Month.

### Heritage Watch

To inaugurate its new building at 855 T.M. Kalaw St. in Manila, Instituto Cervantes calls all Spanish speakers to participate in the First Continuous Public Reading of "Noli Me Tangere," which begins at 3 p.m. on June 16. The nonstop reading will continue for the next 20 hours, ending in the morning of June 17.

Paella wakes up the graveyard shift at midnight. At dawn, *churros con chocolate* are served to outgoing and incoming readers.

Some 250 readers are needed for the continuous reading. Put yourself on the list by calling Instituto Cervantes at 5261482-45, faxing 5251449, or e-mailing [cenmna@cervantes.es](mailto:cenmna@cervantes.es).

Please e-mail comments and feedback to [pride.place@gmail.com](mailto:pride.place@gmail.com)

## 'Soft-Shell' at Avellana

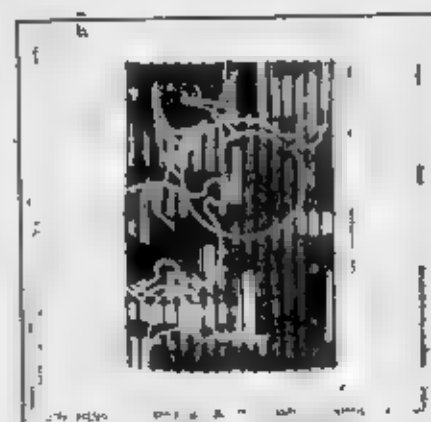


ON VIEW UNTIL JUNE 3 AT AVELLANA ART Gallery is Mac Valdez's "Soft-Shell."

Composed of tapestries and soft, organic sculptures, the exhibit straddles between that small, delicate space of art and craft. The aspect of craft is characterized by the materials which are sewn-together fabrics, rejects or excess of factory garments.

The art comes in the very sensitive notion of color and texture that guided the artist in her placements and the geometric flourish that renders the tapestries its metaphorical latch. In effect, the works are very personal not only in their evocation but also in their conception.

Avellana Art Gallery is at A. 19, 2680 FB Harrison St., Pasay City (fronting Gideon Academy). Call 8338357.



"4 FOLDS" (above) and "Japa" (far left)



# LIFESTYLE

Text us your feedback:  
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to  
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)Grab a Nokia 6020!  
NOW FREE @ Plan 600  
Only P4,500 @ Plan 350\*

- Integrated Camera
- MP3, GPRS, Email, Chat, Video
- Control for clips up to 50 seconds
- 30-megapixel camera

SUN  
CELLULAR

"THE COFFEE Shop Within the Play  
(Unravel Noh)," a Japanese-Filipino  
production staged by Naohiko Umewaka

## All the world's a stage

By Gibbs Cadiz

**WHAT'S IN A NAME?** An actress like Olga Tudorache won't likely ring a bell here or in any place where Lindsay Lohan reigns. But thanks to the Unesco-International Theater Institute (ITI) Theater Olympics of the Nations, which ended just last night at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), we now know a miracle of an artist by her name exists.

Tudorache, along with Marius Bodochi, headlined the two-character

play "Regina Madre," by the National Theater of Bucharest, Romania, one of many prominent drama groups from Europe, North and Latin America, Africa and the Arab States, the Caribbean and Asia that had come for the festival and made Manila, for two weeks at least, the world's theater capital.

Monster mothers have been a staple of world stages, from Medea to Mary Tyrone in O'Neill's "Long Day's Journey into Night," and to this list must be added playwright Manlio Santanelli's singular creation, a portrait of a matri-

Of some 30 performances from all over the world that graced the Theater Olympics of the Nations held in Manila, here are five that thrilled and moved us

ALL THE/D2

### The Good Life Begins With A Healthy Life

Located just minutes away from the Santa Rosa exit of the South Superhighway, Ayala Westgrove Heights was deliberately designed to cradle the fresh mountain air, to make even the littlest of breaths a pleasure in itself.

That's why over half of the property (or about 200 hectares) is devoted to parks, gardens, and recreational areas, with the other half reserved for residential development. What it adds up to is one of the least congested residential areas in the country today.

A place where you can breathe easily. Which, residents have discovered, has reduced occurrences of asthma attacks in children, reawakened the desire to engage in outdoor activities. And it's not magic. All the air in Westgrove is fresh. And that's a lot more than can be said in many so-called modern residential communities today.

But in spite of being far enough from the city to escape smog and pollution and congestion, Ayala Westgrove Heights is still near enough commercial centers, drugstores, churches, markets, and even premier schools like St. Scholastica's Westgrove, DLSU Canlubang, Don Bosco and Brent International School to make living here the new standard in living well.



## At Ayala Westgrove Heights, air freshening doesn't come in cans.



*Others call it refreshing.*

*We call it the next  
big thing in living well.*

**I**t comes instead, from over 400 hectares of rolling greens lush with orchards, groves and gardens. It comes from the way the land seems to cradle the winds from both mountain and woods. It comes as the fruit of painstaking attention to detail that maximizes and makes full use of open spaces. It comes from the fact that over 50% of the property has been devoted to parks, greenery and open spaces. And it all serves to make activities like fishing, jogging, strolling, biking, or just plain lazing around a true delight. One might even say that every breath is a pleasure at Ayala Westgrove Heights. Find out for yourself. Plan a visit today. And inhale. And exhale. And repeat.



## AYALA

Westgrove Heights

Call: 728-7000 • e-mail: [ask@ayalalandpremier.com](mailto:ask@ayalalandpremier.com) • Log on to [www.ayalalandpremier.com](http://www.ayalalandpremier.com)

LT8 HLURB Nos. R4-06-06-0062, R4-06-06-0063, R4-06-06-0060, 01844-R4-06-05, 01883-R4-06-05, 06186-R4A-03-06



# The Russians are coming

By Pablo A. Tariman  
Contributor

WHAT DO MAYA PLISETSKAYA, Vladimir Spivakov and Mstislav Rostropovich have in common?

The great ballerina, the excellent violinist and the legendary cellist are all Russians and they have all performed for Filipino audiences to great acclaim.

These Russian icons have also performed with Filipino artists.

Plisetskaya performed with our own Maniya Barredo in one fundraising dance event in Guatemala. Spivakov performed Beethoven's Triple Concerto with Cecile Licad and Antonio Meneses in Spain. Rostropovich has performed many times with Licad as conductor or cellist in chamber music.

Again Licad is performing a Shostakovich sonata with one of Russia's greatest living violinists, Gidon Kremer, in the Lockenhaus Festival in Austria next month.

The good news is that Manila's performing arts scene will once again be graced by great Russian artists and ensembles on June 14-18, according to Madam Valentina Nebogatova, first vice president of the Friendship Society Philippines-Russia Inc.

The series of performances will be called a festival of Russian culture in the Philippines. Ballet Manila under Lisa Macuja-Elizalde will be involved.

"I cannot deny that my Russian ballet education is a big part of my dancing life," said Elizalde during the presscon. "There are times when I speak in Filipino and think in Russian and vice versa."

At any rate, Madam Nebogatova



DENIS Matsuev, Russian pianist

has announced that the Russian festival will open June 14 with an exhibit opening and a screening of a Russian film.

A performance of the Folklore Ensembles will be held on June 15, to be followed by the dance gala of the "The Stars of Bolshoi Theater" on June 16.

On June 18, Russian pianist Denis Matsuev will perform with the San Miguel Philharmonic under the baton of Felix Korobov.

The special cultural ties between Russia and the Philippines will be chronicled by Music News Magazine, which will recall the first time Russian dance legends Anna Pavlova and violinist Mischa

Ellman set foot in Manila in the 1920s.  
Call 9017156 or 0910-8851136.

## Peace Orchestra

Many are wondering whatever happened to the Peace Philharmonic Philippines (PPP), which used to be the Cebu Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Well, the regular players are still alive and kicking and have just wrapped up a summer festival series from Cagayan de Oro to Cebu City.

In April and early this May, I caught up with two events of the PPP Chamber Players at the Cebu Waterfront Hotel Ballroom.

The April 23 concert featured guest conductor Eugene Fredrick Castillo conducting Wagner's "Siegfried Idyll" with Ingrid Sala Santamaria as soloist in the Chopin E Minor Concerto (arranged for a string quartet) and the Edward MacDowell D Minor Concerto.

Even with a small chamber group, Castillo managed to elicit formidable sound from the PPP Players and made "Siegfried Idyll" quite poignant in many parts (it was initially threatened by the sound of rock band rehearsing in the adjacent ballroom).

Santamaria had lyricism on the palm of her hand in the Chopin E Minor Concerto, but it was in the MacDowell piano concerto that she showed her best in an unusual concerto that was fast in the second movement and ending largo molto allegro toward the dramatic finale.

On May 7, I got the chance to

see the group in a program of Mozart's Symphony No. 40 in G Minor, K. 550, and Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E Minor, Op. 64, again at the Waterfront Hotel Ballroom.

Conducted by Jeffrey Solares, the Mendelssohn concerto with soloist Sara Maria Gonzales was easily the evening's most memorable highlight. She played with verve, not losing the feel of the Mendelssohn melancholy inherent in the piece. Solares gave her excellent support.

Santamaria, who has witnessed the musical growth of these young musicians, points out that although the PPP lost some of its players to Manila-based orchestras and to schools abroad where the Cebu musicians easily qualified for scholarships, a few have remained to keep Cebu's classical music alive. They not only make music; many PPO players teach and have music studios of their own.

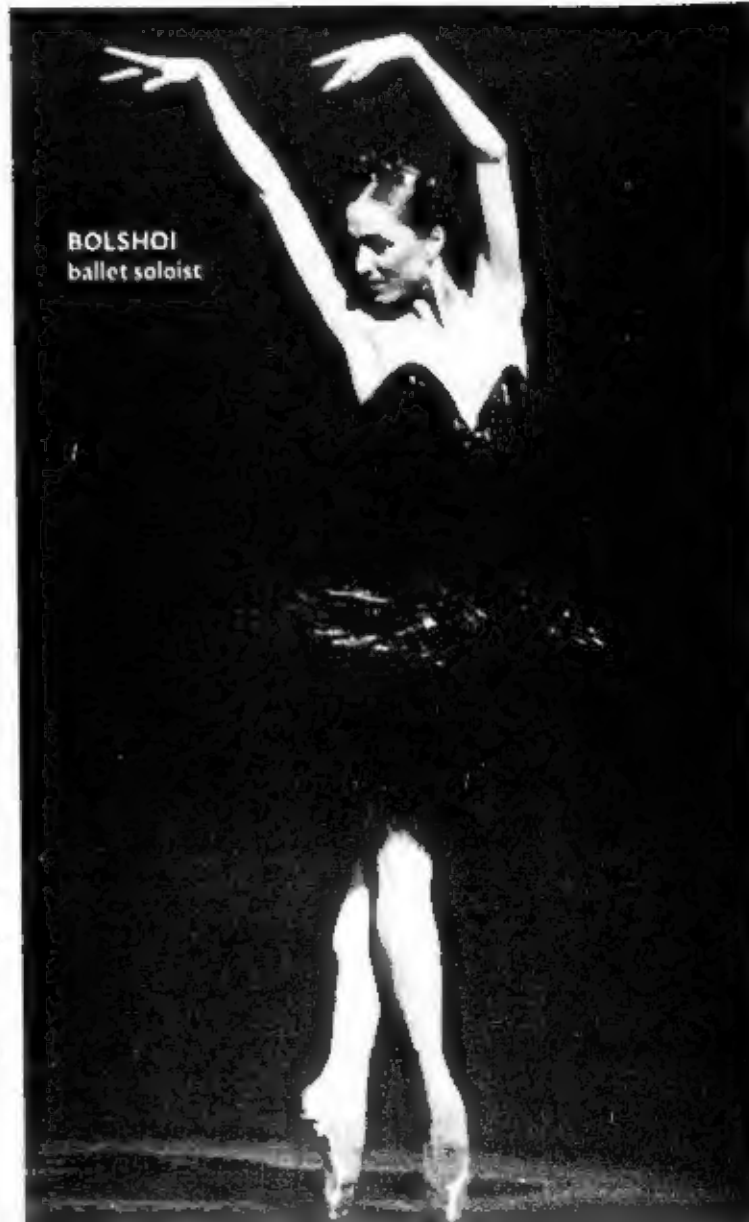
A regular partner in the PPP music-making is the Cebu Waterfront Hotel under Marco Protacio.

"Without this venue sponsor," says Santamaria, "we will be hard put to keep classical music alive on this part of the Visayas."

## Here and there

Two-time Namcha first prize winner Oliver Salonga will be heard in a special solo recital at the Philamlife Theater on June 25, 8 p.m.

His program: Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 31 in A flat Major, Op. 110; Prokofiev's Sonata No. 7 in B flat Major; and Chopin's Sonata No. 2 in B flat Minor, Op. 35. Call 9017156 or 0910-



BOLSHOI  
ballet soloist

8851136 for tickets.

Another outstanding product of the Philippine High School for the Arts, clarinetist Girard Moses Villanueva from Baguio City graduated summa cum laude with a music degree in Music Performance at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music in Florida on May 13. He

was also in the honors class with an honors degree in Applied Mathematics.

Girard's story is a classic case of music scholars who persevere even without help from institutions that are supposed to take care of the country's young talents.



UST SINGERS

## UST Singers tour Taiwan

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON Culture and the Arts has given a grant to the internationally acclaimed University of Santo Tomas Singers for its 12th international concert tour, which culminates in Taiwan, May 20-31.

The UST Singers, under the baton of professor Fidel Gener Calalang Jr., will present concerts at the National Concert Hall Taipei, Taipei Philharmonic Art Center, Taichung Chung Shan Concert Hall, Keelung City Concert Hall and Hsinchu County Concert Hall.

Highlights of this tour are lecture on "Philippine Folk Songs in the Choral Repertoire" by Calalang. The Taiwan stint of the UST Singers is organized by the Taipei Philharmonic Foundation for Culture and Education under its manager, Ferdinand Ting.

Earlier, the UST Singers toured South Korea and Singapore. They had a successful performance at the Esplanade Concert Hall in Singapore, May 14, before a packed audience of choral fans and enthusiasts where

they received several standing ovations and obliged to demands for an encore. The event was graced by the Philippine Ambassador to Singapore, Belen Fule Anoto.

Since 1992, the UST Singers have gone on 12 international concert tours and won over 45 top prizes in Europe. Calalang, founder and conductor, heads the Conducting Department of the UST Conservatory of music. He won the Best Conductor Prize at the Tonen Choral Competition in The Netherlands.

## All the world's a stage

From page C1

arch so towering that it could send a son to the pits and sustain a two-hour-long tawdry tragicomedy.

Santarelli's Italian-language play (staged by Gelu Colceag), about washed-up, middle-aged Alfredo who returns home to his ill, spiteful mother, flies fast and furious with quicksilver shifts in tone, emotion and insights into calcified human relationships.

As the long-estranged mother and son come to terms with each other's presence, the barbed language and poisonous air lend the stage a parodic, unhinged blend of sourness and affection worthy of an Almodovar movie.

"Why are you wearing the curtain?" asks Alfredo.

"Why, you like the window better?" counters his mother.

Behind the fury, of course, is a

lifetime of regret and discontent.

"I wanted your affection," Alfredo says. "But you offered me only indifference. Then I stirred up your hatred. It's better than indifference, anyway."

Tudorache, seldom raising her voice yet unfailingly drawing blood with her bladed maternal putdowns, was astounding. Bodochi, too, was excellent, but "Regina Madre" was clearly his co-star's show, and in a festival overflowing with talent from so many countries, this platinum-haired dragonfly of an actress deserved every bit of the ovation she received at curtain call.

Olga Tudorache. Remember her name.

## Exhausting, exhilarating

Sifting through a two-week fes-

tival chock-full with performances in all guises imaginable, from a monologue (Lia Karavia's "Prison" from Greece) to a veritable fiesta of a musical ("Something to Crow about," Cecille Guidore Alvarez's stage production of National Artist Alejandro Roces' short stories on cockfighting), could be exhausting.

Nevertheless, the exhilaration of finding memorable surprises, like Tudorache's turn in "Regina Madre," more than offset the stress. Since the biannual Unesco theater fete goes 'round the globe, the visiting drama groups from as far away as Iceland and Burkina Faso were here for perhaps the first and last time, so missing them would be a high crime for any theater lover.

It would've been quite a loss, for instance, to miss "No Return," an enchanting production by the Finnish drama company Viirus. Opening at 10 a.m., to a nearly empty Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino at the CCP "No Return" company of six actors gamely unspooled their play, about, yes, six actors in search of a play.

"Is this Oklahoma?" goes the first line. "I meant, of course, the great Oklahoma theater."

Six lost actors meet at an empty station and ride a train to a mythical company in Oklahoma that would hire them as performers, and thus give their lives purpose and meaning.

It's the old saw about dreamers hopping on to the locomotive of their dreams, but, as adapted from two Kafka stories, Viirus' "No Return" (directed by Lithuanian Cezarijus Grautinis) gained a naïf universality by rendering its characters like clowns on a vast bare stage.

Dressed in craypas-colored clothes and pasty makeup, gesturing like mimes in a silent movie, they evoked the world of tougher jesters from Chaplin to Marcel Marceau to Littlechap in the musical "Stop the World, I Want to Get off."

At the end of their journey, roused from sleep, they find themselves in another seemingly empty station. Is this the end?

Blinking at the light, once more frozen in that caught-in-the-headlights tableau that had opened the play, the six begin to sing—improvising, then tearing up into the tune. They stop, and miraculously, the heavens take up their song. Fade to black. One more proof the gods were smiling at this festival.

## Erudite monologue

Dignity against despair was also the subject of Greek playwright-poet-actress Lia Karavia's stirring and erudite one-woman show, "Prison."

In this one-act play, a political prisoner, Nina, narrates a typical day spent behind bars for her outspoken beliefs against racial bigotry. Alternating between moments of terror, guarded hope and bone-scarring tedium, her story echoes and expands the ground covered by other epic hymns to prison survival like Solzhenitsyn's "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich" or, more recently, Martin Sherman's "Bent."

Like the protagonists in these works, Nina's ability to keep herself sane in the face of dehumanizing invisibility rests on her grasp of memory, minutiae, details.

"I know what date it is," she begins. "It is September the 20th. Good! The first thing to do every day, when daylight comes into my prison cell, is to remember the



A SCENE from the contemporary segment of "The Coffee Shop within the Play (Unravel Noh)"

date, and also the day. Today is Sunday."

Her sound mind is a bulwark against the system's drive to efface her off the earth.

"You have run out of arguments," she recalls her tormentor saying. "Will you sign a paper binding you, under oath, perjury punished with a drink of conium, never to lecture and preach your anti-racial discrimination preaching, when we set you free? Or will you go back to your cell to rot, and wait for Mister Death?"

And she says, a grin curling her mouth, "I did not even tell him that Death is a lady in many languages and, therefore, in the art of many countries. La morte. La muerte. La mort. A morte. Adna smert..."

## Imaginative staging

From Burkina Faso's Theatre De La Fraternite came "Three Sisters in Distress," a play about women coping with rape, oppression and other forms of abuse. Its imaginative staging (by Jean Henri Dreze), alive with the sensory richness of African chants and drums, plus the breathtaking sight of female actors bravely parodying the lazy, misogynistic strain of Muslim manhood, reaffirmed the power of issues-oriented theater to instruct as much as delight.

Among all the festival entries, Burkina Faso's contribution felt closest to what the Philippines' stalwart Philippine Educational Theater Association (Peta) had been doing all these years.

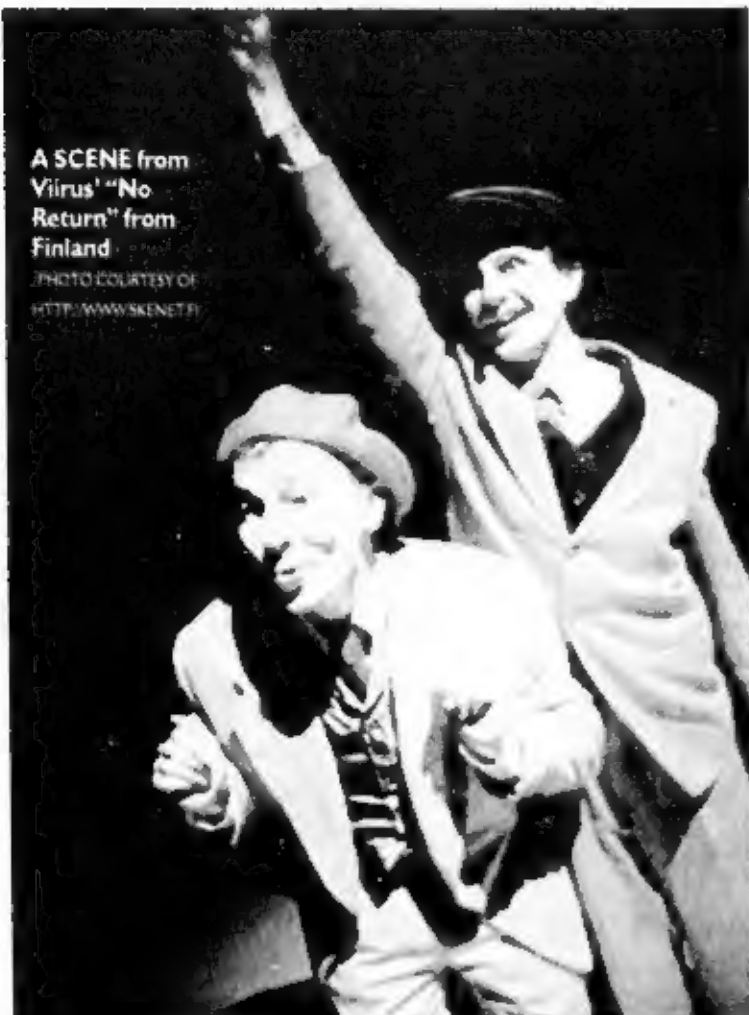
But then, theater could also be nonsensical, concerned about nothing in particular, and yet still be as mesmerizing. "The Coffee Shop within the Play (Unravel Noh)," a collaboration between Japan and the Philippines, proved this point with a flourish.

What initially appeared to be a play within a play slowly dissolved into an exercise in artful nonsense, in logic that slashed and burned in all the wrong places. Taking a leaf from Kafka, Beckett, Ionesco and the Japanese's own penchant for mixing high and low cultures, the sort of meta-play started with an excerpt from an ancient Noh dance, distinguished by meticulously exact movements.

Then the plot to "unravel Noh" began with a contemporary scene showing a director directing a play about a director directing a play—or so it appeared, until bizarre things began happening and the play pitched headlong into an absurdist dream. The micronomed world of Noh was now in counterpoint to a universe where nothing made sense.

Enigmatic, challenging, deliriously textured, Nachiko Umewaka's "The Coffee Shop within the Play" was not only a fine showcase of Filipino actors doing great by foreign material, but of theater's possibility to unnerve, confound and extend the boundaries of the real.

E-mail the author at [gcaldia@inquirer.com.ph](mailto:gcaldia@inquirer.com.ph)



A SCENE from  
Viirus' "No  
Return" from  
Finland

PHOTO COURTESY OF  
[HTTP://WWW.SKINET.FI](http://WWW.SKINET.FI)



OLGA Tudorache of Romania's  
"Regina Madre"

PHOTO COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.KAPPAFO](http://WWW.KAPPAFO)





JOHN Robert Powers students in 2005 talent show

## Talent showcase

JOHN ROBERT POWERS WILL HOLD ITS third exclusive invitational activity entitled "Famous" to showcase the potential of its students before distinguished talent managers. This is an activity the school is continuously pursuing to provide its students opportunities and maximum exposure.

The event will be held on two Sundays, June 4 and 11, 6-8 p.m., at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, Podium 4, RCBC, Ayala cor. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City. The students will showcase their talents in hosting, runway, fashion print, TV commercial, acting, singing and dancing. At least 150 students are joining the talent show.

This activity is similar to the International Modeling and Talent Association (IMTA) competition held in Hollywood and New York every year where students of John Robert Powers-Manila participated in and competed with aspiring models, actors, dancers, and singers from all over the United States and other key cities in the world.

## Caged heat

From page D4

Claiming self-defense, Angela is fighting a frustrated murder charge and discovers that, in a filthy jail cell, her most immediate battle is to keep her dignity intact.

It is not easy; suspected felons and sordid crimes hardly make for uplifting company and jail guards soon find them the handiest outlet for the frustrations of their dead-end jobs.

Considered the dregs of society, even minor offenders are treated like criminals from the start, deprived of basic rights, literally stripped of privacy by fellow inmates in an initiation called "health inspection," abused by wardens and prisoners alike, and, thanks to overloaded court dockets and the lack of legal counsel, could spend years behind bars way beyond their sentence while waiting for their day in court.

Written in conversational Filipino, the novel's textured language is a distinct tribute to how expressive, gut-felt and nuanced one's native tongue can be, no matter how coarse the discourse among prisoners.

True, the deprivations of life inside prison can be fairly common knowledge; what isn't are the stories that make the inmates less of statistics and more of individuals caught in circumstances that limit their choices.

There is the battered wife who fought back only when her husband started abusing her children; the hold-up woman who knew of no other trade to support her family; the house-help tempted into stealing because her child needed more food, and three aging prostitutes coarsened by life on the streets.

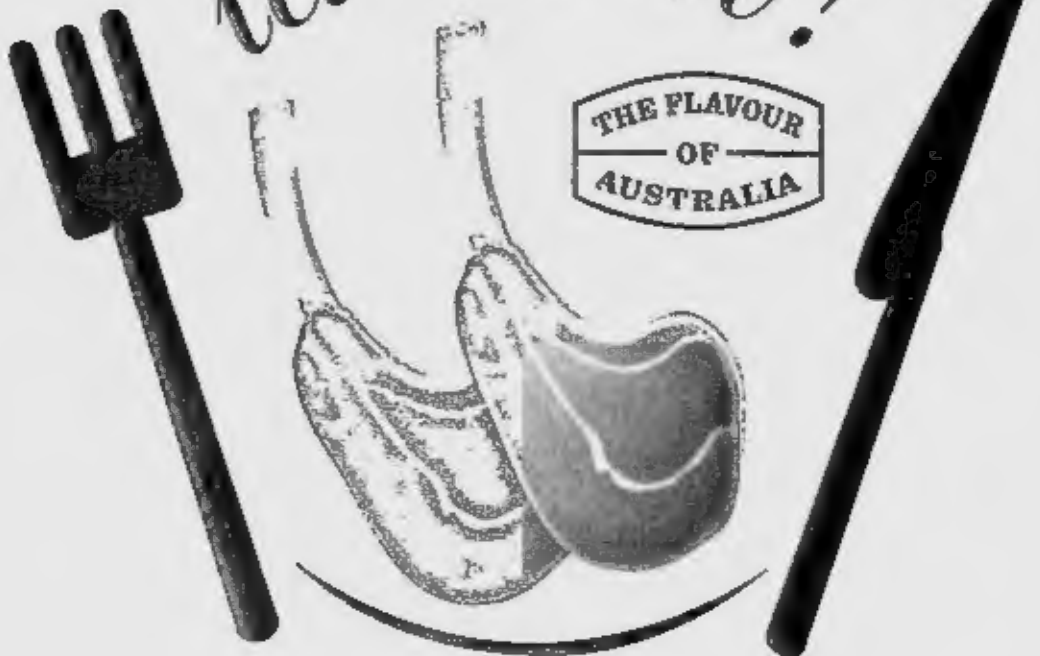
It is amazing how the author can make the ordinary reader empathize with such doubtful characters. Even the warden who gets into trouble for allowing errant children to stay with their inmate parents gets a fair hearing from Bautista.

As for Angela, life behind bars becomes even more complicated when she discovers she is pregnant. Again, Bautista challenges our long-held beliefs with provocative questions on how society views children, the rights and responsibilities of parents and society, the best environment for raising kids, and so on. Are there any right or wrong answers?

The writer doesn't say, but her novel's upbeat ending should tell us where her sentiments lie even if, given the novel's setting and premise, the optimism might have been misplaced. But then again, you have to remind yourself that this is fiction; it only reads and feels like real life.

It's  
back!

Ooh-  
la-lamb!



It's love at first bite.

The Australian Lamb Festival.

May 15-June 18, 2006

This May and June enjoy delectable Australian Lamb in countless delicious ways. These participating establishments have created sumptuous lamb dishes for you to enjoy.

 Telephone: 521-6682	 Telephone: 724-7440 Fax: 926-6994	 Telephone: 840-3771	 Telephone: 720-8242 721-2717	 Telephone: 757-3536	 Telephone: 757-4370	 Telephone: 896-8628	 Telephone: 840-3771
 Telephone: 810-8733	 Telephone: 887-3333	 Telephone: 638-7527	 Telephone: 757-2710	 Telephone: 845-1700	 Telephone: 833-1234	 Telephone: 527-3674	 Telephone: 890-4123
 Telephone: 887-3333	 Telephone: 887-3333	 Telephone: 638-4379	 Telephone: 413-3887	 Telephone: 371-1973	 Telephone: 757-3699	 Telephone: 818-8251 Fax: 526-2739	 Telephone: 887-3333
 Telephone: 521-4415	 Telephone: 729-2888	 Telephone: 757-2636	 Telephone: 524-6770	 Telephone: 840-3771	 Telephone: 771-2345	 Telephone: 854-1601	 Telephone: 887-3333
 Telephone: (046) 413-0888	 Telephone: (046) 414-2337	 Telephone: (046) 414-2337	 Telephone: (046) 414-2337	 Telephone: (046) 414-2337	 Telephone: (046) 414-2337	 Telephone: (046) 414-2337	 Telephone: (046) 414-2337
 Telephone: (032) 231-0157	 Telephone: (032) 231-0157	 Telephone: (032) 231-0157	 Telephone: (032) 231-0157	 Telephone: (032) 231-0157	 Telephone: (032) 231-0157	 Telephone: (032) 231-0157	 Telephone: (032) 231-0157
 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888
 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888
 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888
 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888
 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888
 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888	 Telephone: (032) 232-6888

## UNCOVER THE HERITAGE OF LOCAL ART

Learn more about our culture through the Arts and Antiques Village of Tiendesitas. Each artwork and design of antique decoys display the remarkable talent and ingenuity of Filipinos. Visit Tiendesitas and experience the wonderful evolution of Pinoy art.

ARTS AND ANTIQUES VILLAGE

TIENDESITAS

PINOY'S BEST EVERYDAY!

Fronters Verde, Ortigas Avenue corner E. Rodriguez (C-5), Pook City [www.tiendesitas.com.ph](http://www.tiendesitas.com.ph)





D3

LIFESTYLE

# Caged heat

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

TRUST LUALHATI BAUTISTA TO PUT A human face on yet another demographics we'd rather ignore: women behind bars. The multi-awarded novelist, screenwriter and fictionist has always taken up the cudgels for the out-cast, the often misunderstood and the simply different.

So why should we care that Angela Gutierrez, a naïve Other Woman who believed the sugared promises of her lover, now faces serious jail time for stabbing and seriously wounding her paramour's wife? What do we have in common with this 25-year-old waitress from Bits n Pieces Beer Garden anyway?

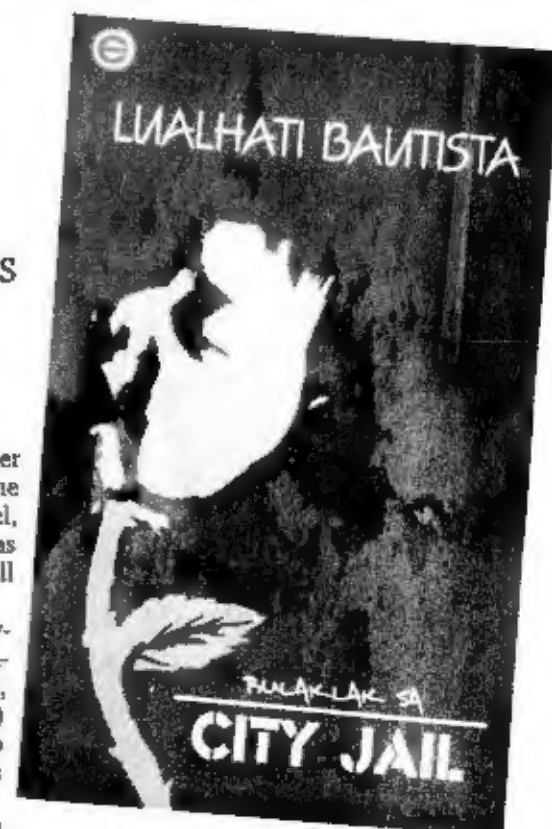
A lot, as it turns out. Bautista's gritty prose spares no one as she drags us out of our complacent selves and heaves us into the con-

Lualhati Bautista adapts her 1984 Nora Aunor starrer into a novel

stricted space occupied by her flawed characters. By the time we're midway through the novel, Angela has become as familiar as one's next-door neighbor and all too human.

A novel serialized in Liway-way Magazine and adapted into a movie starring Nora Aunor in 1984, "Bulaklak sa City Jail" (C & E Publishing) gives the reader an unflinching look into the dehumanizing rituals that pass for this country's justice system.

CAGED/D3



Load up on these  
back to school  
goodies at  
**National Book Store**



Penguin  
Hanging Folder  
#98331-37  
Long Size  
Available in colors  
blue, yellow, violet,  
red, orange and green



Uni Gel Impact Ballpen  
#UM 153s 1.0  
Available color: black, blue and red



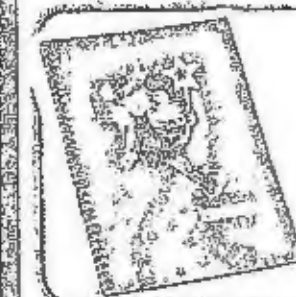
Uni Signo Ballpen  
#UMN 207  
Available color:  
black, point 0.5 and 0.7



Pentel Maxiflo  
Permanent Marker NLF-50  
Also available whiteboard marker



Leo Plasticraft  
Sugar Hiccup  
Spiral Notebook 80's  
5" x 7"



Leo Plasticraft  
Fairy Spiral Notebook  
with plastic cover 80's  
6" x 8 1/2"



Leo Plasticraft  
Simon Elvin Cute Kids  
Double Loop  
Spiral Notebook 80's  
6" x 8 1/2"



Leo Plasticraft  
Simon Elvin Bear Hardbound  
Double Loop 5 Subject  
Spiral Notebook 150's  
6" x 8 1/2"



**National  
Book Store**



Let Your Creativity Take Shape  
At Creative Park!

SIMPLY CLICK, PRINT, CREATE NOW



## Fun Paper Crafts

Log on to a world of possibilities, from wild animals to fortune tellers, there's a craft for everyone. Travel lovers will find many popular landmarks, while art buffs can download beautiful organisms and other interesting crafts.



## Exciting D.I.Y. Games

Challenge your friends to a game of finger-tap Sumo by penning them to the ground with finger vibrations. It's just one of many games you can create in minutes. Try your luck in Balance Game or play with homemade toys like finger puppets and lots more.



## Greeting Cards For Any Occasion

Give greetings the personal touch. Surprise more with a 3D carnation on Mother's Day or send personalized Christmas cards with matching envelopes to friends. There's a wide choice of cards for any festivity that you can download.



## Scrapbooks To Call Your Own

Create scrapbooks the easy way. Simply add text and photos to ready-made templates for every occasion, and stylish albums are yours to keep. Now you can add colour to life's best moments like weddings and birthdays. Browse online now.



## World Clip Art

Classy costumes, exotic animals, cultural icons and cute cartoons, just to name a few. It's a universe of stunning illustrations you can use to brighten letters, cards and photographs. Why wait? See you at Creative Park today!



Get started now with plans, tutorials and recommendations. GP-501 Everyday Photo Paper or HP-101 High Resolution Paper now.

Install on an original warranty issued by Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roxas Avenue cor. V.A. Ralino St., Makati City. Tel.: 894-9000 • Fax: 810-9797 • info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

**Bring them to life!**

**Canon**  
Delighting You Always

For best results, use only Canon Paper when printing paper crafts from Canon Creative Park. They're made of high quality materials to guarantee brilliant printouts no ordinary paper can match.

[www.canon.com/c-park](http://www.canon.com/c-park)

PP-101 (A4, 4x6, A3) Perfect for photos

GP-501 (A4, 4x6) Perfect for 3D toys

PP-101D(A4) Perfect for scrapbooks and back-to-back pictures

HR-101N (A4, A3) Perfect for original, greeting cards and colored documents

Available at: Canon DZone • The Computer Authority • Elexworld • Integrated Computer Systems • Octagon • Silicon Valley